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SECOND CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OLD WORLD MYZININAE

(HYMENOPTERA: TIPHIIDAE)

INTRODUCTION - Many interesting data came out from the further examination of the palaearctic material preserved in the main European Museums; some of them are here exposed, constituing new steps to a better understanding of the taxonomy of the palaearctic Myzininae, a hard task to realize as previously exposed by many authors (GUIGLIA, 1974; KROMBEIN, 1938; GORBATOVSKY, 1981 etc.). The paucity of biological data heavily hinders a satisfactory systematic organisation based on the biological species concept. Hence it compels us to adopt pure morphological criteria to individuate and separate the taxa.

The further quantitative scarcity of available material in most of the cases (often unique specimens!) makes the subject even hardier; too much broad margins have to be let to the author's discretion and insight so that most taxonomical treatments could prove to be arbitrary and inaccurate or even misleading. In order to minimizing that, in a general way we are compelled to individuate as most number of morphological characters as possible, in any case well pointed out and described, according to objective and verifiable criteria, avoiding faint descriptions. All that is overall worth-while about the supraspecifical taxonomy, here not investigated thoroughly as a deep revision of the afrotropical fauna is so far lacking and any conclusion hazards to be as premature as an all-inclusive phylogenetic analysis.

Nevertheless on this matter I feel advisable to criticize some statements of ARGAMAN (1994), who made an otherwise courageous and somehow useful synoptical revision of the world genera of Myzininae (Myzinidae for the author), with reference to the taxa here dealt with. He expressely omitted the Australian genera *Austromyzinum* Brown, 1985 and *Cleftomyzinum* Brown, 1985 but also the New World genera *Pterombrus* F. Smith, 1869 and *Isotiphia* Ashmead, 1903 and the Old World *Melaniswara* Gorbatovsky, 1977 are queerly missing; he overlooked the KIMSEY'S work (1991) on the Tiphiidae and above all the GORBATOVSKY'S works (1977, 1979, 1981) on the taxonomy of the palearctic Myzinianae, where previous muddled situations were clearified and also the reliability of the male genitalia as taxonomical tools both on specific and generic level confirmed. Argaman in most cases established new generic entities, even monospecific, based on one or two characters only; as the

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generic as well as the other supraspecific categories are at some degree artifical buildings, they should be used mainly when phenetic distinction characters are supported by biological and ethological data, what does not happen at all for the Old World Myzininae; the MAYR's recommendation (1969:92) for taxa above the species level, "the size of the phenetic gap separating a taxon from another of the same categorical level be in inverse ratio to the size of the taxon", should not be derogated from in our case. At last he did not give any explication about the types directly examinated, nor about material used for descriptions and drawings (but for the new species), nor about so far never described males or females coupled with previously known taxa, making really hard to control and verify the reliability and goodness of his statements. In conclusion I feel a remarkable deal of perplexity about the generic names proliferation made by him should be used, while it would be very useful a phylogenetic approach to the entire matter, a hard task to accomplish because the so far absolute unknowledge of the preimmaginal states and ethology.

The Palaearctic Region seems to have the same meaning as for the Myziniae as for the Chrysididae (KIMSEY & BOHART, 1990), extending southward to Sahel, Erythrea, Somalia and Arabian peninsula.

METHODS - The morphological terminology mostly follows GAULD & BOLTON (1988), the body orientation used here in descriptions and drawings follows GOULET & HUBER (1993:14). The frontal view of the head, unless otherwise indicated, is perpendicular to the ideal longitudinal plane passing through the top of the vertex and the tip of the clypeus, as indicated by the a-axis of the fig. 12; dorsal and lateral views are complanar - and perpendicular to each other - to the ideal plane of the occipital carina, vertically oriented to the main longitudinal axis of the body. Because of their asimmetry and the intrinsic hardiness to locate their right direction, only the relative sizes and ratios between palpomeres and not their shape have to be considered. The width of the BBS is compared to the apparent width of the relative flagellomeres from the relative perpendicular view and not to the their real surface. Genitalia are settled and drawn in full immersion under water with tensioactive and conserved or in ethanol/glycerol 50/50, or in a solified drop of 5,5 - dimethyl hidantoin formaldehyd (DMHF) on a transparent support. In the figures, the outer and ventral sides of the paramere and the inner surface of the volsella are drawn.

In the males a new character in some case useful to separate taxa on specific level has been used here: the vertical, shining surface, above surrounded with the pronotal keel, separating the pronotal disk from the collar and called "pronotal plate".

ABBREVIATIONS. BMNH = The Natural History Museum, London; LUZM = Lund University Zoological Museum; MHNG = Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève; MHNP = Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; MSNG = Museo Civico "G. Doria" di Storia Naturale, Genova; MZL = Musée Zoologique, Lausanne; MZUF = Museo Zoologico de "La Specola", Università di Firenze; NHMW = Naturhistorische Museum Wien; UZM = Universitets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen; ZMA= Zoological Museum Amsterdam; CB = Collection Borsato, Verona; CBB = Collection Boni Bartalucci, Firenze; CH = Collection Hamon, Gaillard; CP = Collection Pagliano, Turin.

! = Types examined; BBS = Bent Bristles Strip; E = Eye; GB = Genal Bridge; H = Height; He = Head; LP = Labial Palps; LO = Lateral Ocelli; MO = Median Ocellus; MP = Maxillary Palps; OF = Oral Fossa; P = Pronotal disk; Pr = Propodeum; R = Ratio; SAL = Supra Antennal Lobes; W = Width.

Digits between round brackets in the chorological items indicate the number of specimens.

Genus Mesa Saussure, 1892

Mesa Saussure, 1892: 244 (species typus: *Mesa heterogamia*; ♀; MHNG, !)

Designation of lectotypes.

Mesa heterogamia Saussure, 1892. Lectotypus: ♀ bearing the labels "Mozambiq" (blue, printed) "*Mesa heterogamia* Sa. ♀" (blue, autographic) "TYPE" (red, printed) "C.ne de Saussure". Paralectotypus: same labels. MHNG

Plesia mandalensis Magretti, 1892. Lectotypus: ♀ bearing the labels "Mandalay, Birmania, Fea, XI/1885" (printed) "*Plesia (Myzine) mandalensis* ♀ n.sp." (yellow, autographic) "*Plesia mandalensis* ♀ Magrt." (autographic). Paralectotypi: 4 ♀♀ with the same printed label (1 ♀ with an autographic label "*Plesia mandalensis* O Magrt.", 1 ♀ with "*Plesia mandalensis* ♀ Magr., cotypus", 1 ♀ with "*Plesia* n.sp."). MSNG.

Genus Meria Illiger, 1807

Meria Illiger, 1807: 194 (species typus: *Tiphia tripunctata* Rossi, 1790; ♀; ?)
Tachus Jurine, 1807: Argaman (1994:95)
Meriana Rafinesque, 1815: Argaman (1994:85, 96)
Pseudomeria S.S. Saunders, 1850: Gorbatovsky (1981:383)
Arapatka Argaman, 1994:94 SYN. NOV.
Upaterka Argaman, 1994:95, SYN. NOV.
Fukpotka Argman, 1994:95. SYN. NOV.
Tilkuya Argman, 1994:96. SYN. NOV.

A careful and comprehensive generic diagnosis of the genus *Meria* Illiger, 1807 is so far lacking because the ancient authors could not separate species actually belonging to different genera and the afrotropical fauna still needs a deep revision. This genus is here intended therefore in according to the brief but substantially reliable generic diagnosis expressed by GORBATOVSKY (1979), inlcuding *Pseudomeria* successively (1981) and correctly considered by him synonym of *Meria*, here modified by the following corrections and additions:

– the flagellomeres of the males have a vertical (to their longitudinal axis) section similar to the fig. 1 (a "policentric curve"); in some taxa the backward tightening is more stressed till to a subtriangular shape; thin and small lengthwise impressions are more or less expressed on the upper surface of the last elements near the back vertex (they are too much variable into the same populations to constitue a fine taxonomical tool); the light lenghtwise stripe on their anteroventral surface, best visible under incident light, by Gorbatovsky ascribed to "spiniform dark sensilla", is caused by a sort of bent bristles ("BB"), as revealed by a SEM research (The photo 1 & 2 are taken from the 8th flagellomere of a specimen of *Meria geniculata* (Brullé, 1832) labelled "Grecia. Peloponneso, Loutra Kylinis, litorale su *Echinophora spinosa*, 4/VII/1989, BONI BARTALUCCI leg.") while the "spiniform sensilla" are scattered also on the remainder of their surface;

– in the females the last hindtarsomere, usually 1.3 to 1.6 times longer, in some case is as long as the penultimate; the Gorbatovsky's statement "boundary of posterior border of segments parallel to posterior margin or slightly curved in the centre and along the sides, but invariably entire" is not a reliable character;

– the crease separating terga from lateroterga (e.g. in fig. 92 & 110) is present on 1st to 4th metameres of the females (on the 4th is less than half the length of the segment), on 1st to 5th (rarely a vestige on the 6th) of the males.

Two supplementary character states, sometimes useful to discerne specifical taxa, have been found: 1) the presence or absence of hair on the fore (or outer) surface of the median femura (Pagliano, personal communication) 2) the shape of the 1st sternum with relative petiole.

Designation of lectotype

Here it is established the Lectotype and Paralectotype of *Tachus staphylinus* Jurine, 1807:

– *Tachus staphylinus*, Jurine, 1807. *Lectotype*: ♀ bearing the number "30" (having consumed mandibles tips, fig. 2 & 3). *Paralectotype* ♀ with the same number. Both of them are located under the original collection label "*Tachus staphylinus*". Actual name of the species *Meria tripunctata* (Rossi, 1790). –

I verified that both of them are typical specimens of *Meria tripunctata*

(Rossi, 1790); *Tachus* is so confirmed to be isogenotypic with *Meria* Illiger, 1807 as stated by KOHL (1882) and then by KROMBEIN (1937). I also examined (BONI BARTALUCCI, 1997) many females of *Meria lineata* (*Fukpotka lineata* in Argaman's opinion) and I can assert without doubt the distinction characters used by Argaman to segregate *Tachus* and *Fukpotka* from *Pseudomeria, Meria, Tilkuya* and *Meriana*, i.e. for the females the absence-presence of a "Female mandible medio-dorsal longitudinal keel" and for the males the different shape of the clypeus and pronotum, are respectively unreal (fig. 4) and not sufficient or significant to justify that segregation. At number 76 of his identification key he briefly writes ("male mesopleuron with an oblique postpecta carina developed above mid coxa") about the male of *Tachus staphylinus*; it would be very interesting to know it, so far never described, but Argaman did not explicate where to find it.

ARGAMAN (1994:85) then considered *Bethylus latreillei* Fabricius, 1804 (the type-species of *Meria*, Illiger, 1807 for original designation) neither conspecific nor congeneric with *Tiphia tripunctata* Rossi, 1790, he regarded as the type-species of *Meriana* Rafinesque, 1815, a name previously sunken by KROMBEIN (1937, 27) as isogenotypic and synonimous of *Meria* Illiger, 1807. Unfortunately he did not support his opinion with a valid proof or statement of his direct examination of the Fabricius's type and the character used to discriminate females of *Meria* and *Meriana* is obscure and clearly unsufficient as well as those ascribed to the relative males; the figure n. 76 he supplies for *Bethylus latreillei* is useless as it shows a frontal view of the head, while the discrimination character in the key is based on the lateral view. I examinated the Lectotypus of *Bethylus latreillei* Fabricius, 1804 designated by GORBATOVSKY (1981, 385) and considered by him congeneric and conspecific with *Meria tripunctata* (Rossi, 1790). I confirm his opinion; the figs 5 & 6 shows its head; the figs 7, 8 & 9 that one of a specimen of *Tiphia tripunctata* Rossi, 1790 from the typical locality, Tuscany. They are as coincident as the remainder of the body.

From all that it follows the setting to synonymy of *Meria* Illiger, 1807 for the new genera *Fukpotka* and *Tilkuya* (its neotypes and the typical material too has been unaccessible) and the confirmed synonymy for the old ones *Tachus, Meriana* and *Pseudomeria.*

The following so far described palearctic species belong to this genus, sensu Gorbatovsky, (1981): *Meria tripunctata* (Rossi, 1790) (♀ & ♂), *M. cylindrica* (Fabricius, 1793) (♀ & ♂), *M. volvulus* (Fabricius, 1798) (♀ & ♂), *M. dorsalis* (Fabricius, 1804) (♀ & ♂), *M. nitidula* Klug, 1810 (♀), *M. geniculata* (Brullé, 1832) (♀ & ♂), *M. arabica* (Guérin, 1837) (♂), *M. aurantiaca* (Guérin, 1837) (♀ & ♂), **M. spinosa* (Fischer de Waldheim, 1843) (♀ & ♂), *M. lineata* Sichel, 1859 (♀ & ♂), *M. askhabadensis* Radoszkowsky, 1886 (♀

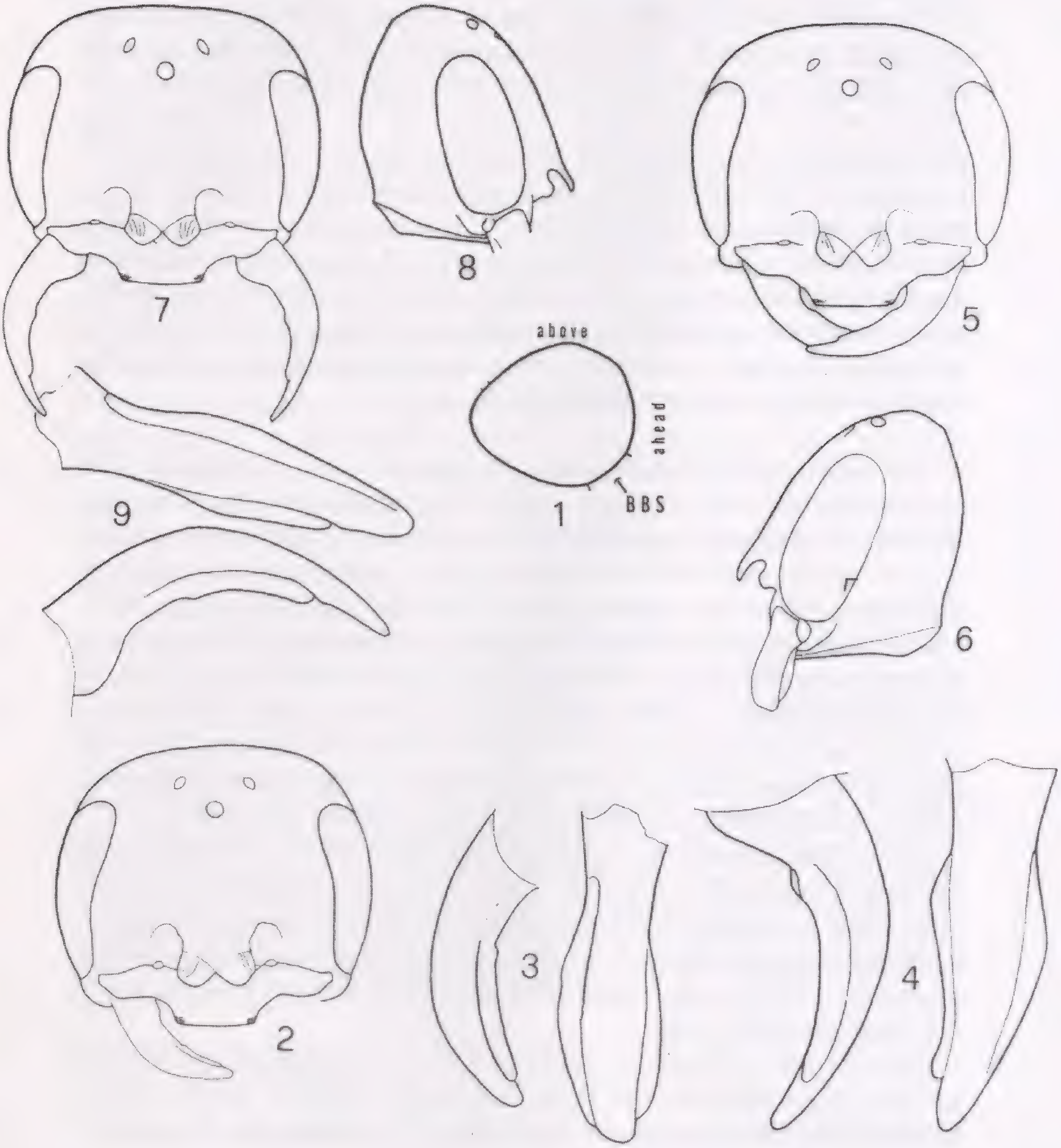

Fig. 1. *Meria tripunctata*, ♀: section of 8th flagellomere. - Fig. 2 & 3. *Tachus staphylinus*, lectotypus ♀. 2: head in frontal aspect; 3: mandible - Fig. 4. *Meria lineata*, ♀: mandible. - Fig. 5&6. *Bethylus latreillei*, holotypus ♀. 5: head in frontal aspect; 6: head in lateral aspect - Fig. 7, 8 & 9. *Meria tripunctata*, ♀. 7: head in frontal aspect; 8: head in lateral aspect; 9: mandible.
Fig. 1 - Scale = 31:1. Figs. 2, 5, 6, 7 & 8 - Scale = 22:1. Figs. 3, 4 & 9 - Scale = 44:1.
(Fig. 1 has been drawn from a male specimen labelled "Italia, Toscana, Grosseto, Parco dell'Uccellina, spiaggia Principina, su Eryngium maritimum, 10/VII/1990, Boni Bartalucci leg.", scale; the figs 7-9 from a female specimen with the same label. Fig. 4 has been drawn from a specimen labelled "Ile de Port-Cros, 24/VIII/1954, F. Aubert leg.", CH.

& ♂), **M. caspica* Radoszkowky, 1887 (♀), *M. sanguinicollis* (F. Morawitz, 1893) (♀), *M. quadrimaculata* Cameron, 1902 (♀), *M. aprica* Gorbatovsky, 1981 (♀ & ♂), *M. flava* Gorbatovsky, 1981 (♂), **M. gussakowskyi* Gorbatovsky, 1981 (♀ & ♂), **M. morawitzi* Gorbatovsky, 1981 (♂) and *M. cephalotes* BONI BARTALUCCI, 1997 (♀ & ♂).

The * points out the taxa of which the types and the typical or comparative material too have been unaccessible. The afrotropical species need a deep revision and are not quoted here.

Meria geniculata (Brullé, 1832)

Myzine geniculata Brullé, 1832:370 (Holotypus ♂, Grecia, MHNP,!)
Pseudomeria graeca S. Saunders, 1850:70 (♀)
Pseudomeria swanetiae Radoszkowsky, 1861:82 (♀)
Myzine nigriceps Mocsary, 1883:19 (♂)
Myzine nigrigena Guiglia, 1966:70 (paratypus ♂, Turkey, MSNG,!)
Meria geniculata: Gorbatovsky (1981:382, ♀&♂)

Material. - ♀ -

GREECE = (1) "Ellas, Makedonia, Blommers e.a." "Olekhovon, 10 km. NNO v. Vlachoklisura, 22-VIII - 1965", ZMA; (3) "Grecia, Trikala, Pili m. 250, 16.VI.1992, Boffa-Giachino-Scaramozzino-Vailati leg.", CP; (1) "Grecia, Pili 250 m., 19.VI.1992, 1. Pagliano", CP.

RUSSIA = (1) "Babadagh, Dobrudja, A.L. Montandon" "*Pseudomeria swanetiae*, O, Radosz., D. Gribodo", MSNG; (1) "165" "K. F. Moraviza (in russian)" "*Pseudomeria swanetiae*, Radoszkowsky", MHNW.

- ♂ -

GREECE = (2) "Graecia, 1896, Steind. Don." "*nigriceps* det. Kohl", MHNW; (1) "Morea" "Morea, Oertzen" "*nigriceps* det. Kohl", MHNW; (1) "Attica, Oertzen" "*nigriceps* F:M. det. Kohl", MHNW; (7) "Griekenland, Ag. Trias 1000m, Parnis Geb. B. Athene, 9-VIII-1953, G.L.v. Ejndhoven", ZMA; (1) "Ellas, Lakonia, Mistras, 29-IX-1962, Ent. Exp. Zool. Mus.", ZMA; (1) "Ellas. Thessalia, Blommers e.a." "Tyrnavos, 17.VIII.1965" "*Meria nigriceps* Mocsary, Det. R. Hensen, 1986", ZMA; (1) "Ellas, Thessalia, Blommers e.a." "15km NW v. Elasson, 18-VIII-1965", ZMA; (4) Monemvassia, 18/26.V.1977", BMNH; (6) "Grecia, Kavala, Asprovalta, VII.84, Osella", CB; (3) "Klidi Ruins (Serres), 15.VI.1992, 1.Pagliano", CP; (2) "Grecia, Trikala, Pili 250m., 16.VI.1992, Boffa-Giachino-Scaramozzino-Vailati leg.", CP; (4) "Grecia, Pili 250m. 1.Pagliano". "18.VI.1992", CP; (6) Ibidem "19.VI.1992", CP;

RUSSIA = (1) "Rym Pesski" "*M. nigriceps* FM, det. F. Morawitz, Type" (autographic), MHNW; (2) "Rym Pesski" "*nigriceps* Mocs. "*nigriceps* FM, C-Type", MHNW; (3) "Becker, Sarepta, 1871", MHNW; (4) "Sarepta, Leder, 1886" "*nigriceps* FM, det. Kohl", NHMW; (1) "Caucasus, Araxesthal, Reitter 89" " *nigriceps* FM, det. Kohl", MNHW; (1) "Sarepta", MHNW; (1) "Lepssinsk" "*Meria arabica* Guér. Det. Gribodo", MSNG.

TURKEY = (1) "Amasia, 1860, Mann", MHNW; (1) "Asia Minore, 70 km S. di Ankara, 3/VII/1962, A.G. Soika" (Paratypus of *nigrigena*), MSNG.

The male specimens, but one, at ZMA are determined "*Meria lineata* Sichel, det. R. Hensen, 1986".

In his introduction ARGAMAN (1994:86) argumented the distinction of *Meria geniculata* Brullé, 1833, (he said collected in "Austria, Greece, Romania, Russia and Switzerland") from *Pseudomeria graeca* S. Saunders, 1855 [their synonymy was established by GORBATOVSKY (1981:382) together with *Pseudomeria swanetiae* Radoszkowsky, 1861, *Myzine nigriceps* Mocsary, 1883 and *Meria nigrigena* Guiglia, 1966]; the former was considered by him the male of *Meria sanguinicollis*, Morawitz, 1893. There is so far no direct observation of copulae, but we have the following data at our disposal:

- a lot of males of *geniculata* and females of *P. graeca* are normally collected together in Greece, where quotations of females *sanguinicollis* (normally recorded from central Asia westward no farther than caucasic area) are so far absolutely lacking;
- the distribution area of *geniculata* extends from Greece to southern Russia, Caucasus and Turkey well coinciding with that one of *P. graeca* and *P. swanetiae* while no quotations actually exist from Austria nor least of all from Switzerland.

It follows that the Gorbatovsky's hypothesis with relative synonymies is acceptable and much more logical as agreeing with disposable data.

MALE. There is a remarkable variability into the same populations about size (from 11 to 18 mm), colour patterns and darkness of the wings (stressed in the biggest specimens). The clypeus is black or at most with yellow spots. The tooth on the anteroventral corner of the pronotum is often more protruding and acute than in the holotype. The bands on the terga are always with an irregular foreprofile or are divided in three spots. The males here quoted well correspond to the *geniculata's* holotype (Figs. 10-22), which is 16 mm. long., has reduced light patterns, wrinkled metapleurae, darkened wings and the fore surface of median femura covered by weak hair.

The most clear autapomorphy seems the "pool" of the following character states (individually taken everyone of them is shared by other taxa): subcircular head in frontal aspect; thin BBS (it varies in size around 1/3 the width of the flagellomeres); foreborder of the clypeus and pronotal keel always black and non transparent; pronotal width 3 times its median height in dorsal aspect; haired foresurface of the median femura; stout petiole; rounded tips of the epigygium; base of the lunule on the paramere sided well above its median height; tightening tip of the paramere in dorsal view.

Meria aurantiaca (Guérin, 1837)

Myzine aurantiaca Guérin, 1837:577, n. 8 (Lectotypus ♂, Arabia, MHNP,!)
Meria aurantiaa: Guiglia (1964b:1-4, ♂)
Meria soikai Guiglia, 1966:72-74, (♂, Holotypus, CH,!); SYN. NOV.
Meria aurantiaca: BONI BARTALUCCI (1997:623-624, ♀&♂)

Material. - ♂ -
JORDAN = (1) "Shaumari, 19/VI/(19)76", BMNH.

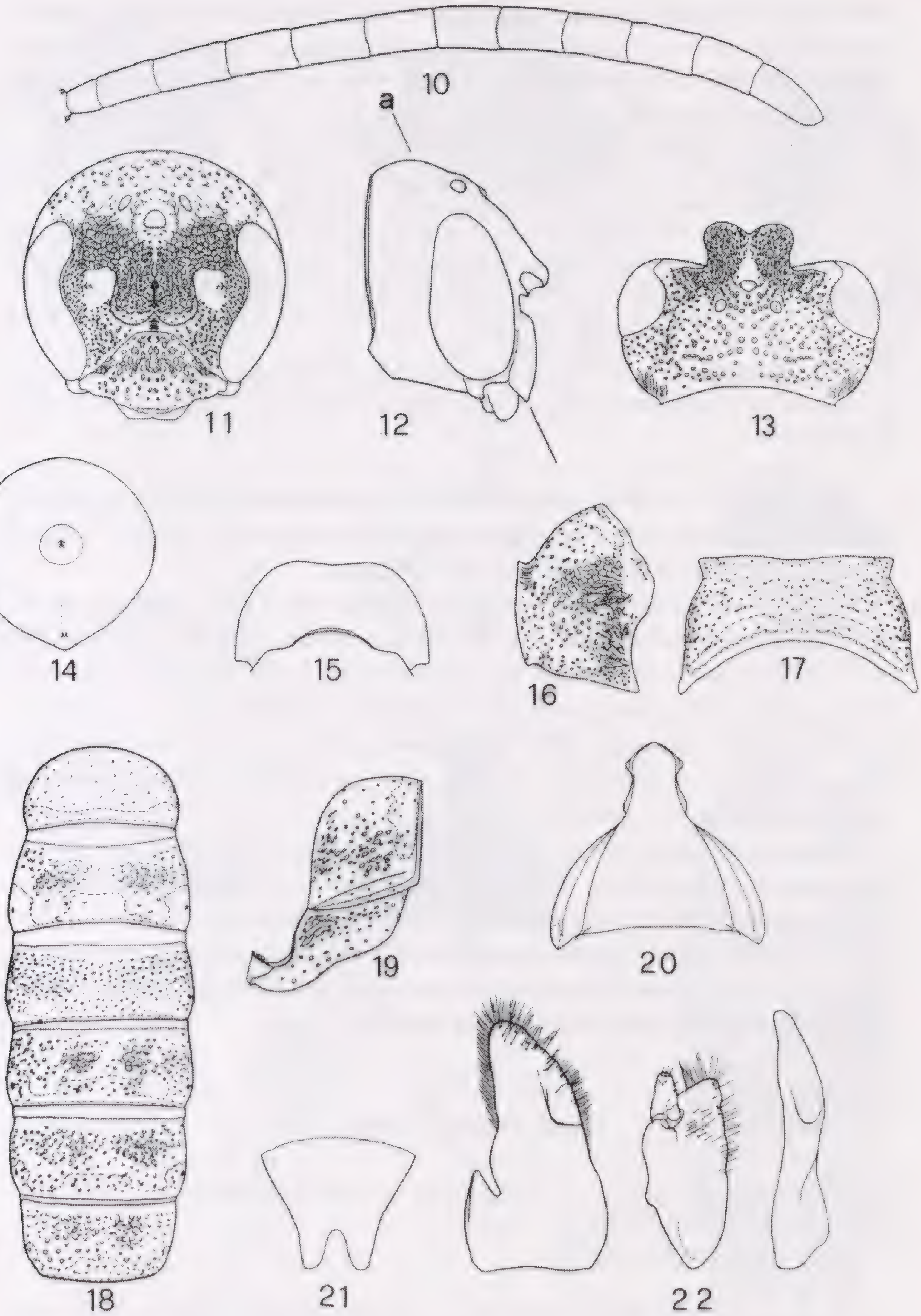

Fig. 10 - 22. *Meria geniculata*, holotypus ♂. 10: flagellum; 11: head in frontal aspect; 12: head in lateral aspect; 13: head in dorsal aspect; 14: head occipital ring: 15: pronotal plate; 16: mesosoma, pronotum in lateral aspect; 17: pronotum in dorsal aspec 18: metasoma (without epipygium) in dorsal aspect; 19: metasoma, 1st segment in lateral view; 20: metasoma, 1st sternum in ventral aspect; 21: epipygium in dorsal aspect; 22: paraere & volsella.
Figs. 10-17 & 19-21 - Scale = 14:1. Fig. 18 - Scale = 10:1. Fig. 22 - Scale = 28:1.

IRAN = (1) "1 mile NE of Selehabad near Veromin, Iran, 24 Sept. (19)49, R.P. Dow", MSNG.
KAZAKISTAN = (1) "Bugaziu chami na iuv. Ot Tianshania, Robkoslow, 6/IX/(19)95", MSNG; (1) "Kazaki-SSR, Kaskelen river, 50 km N Alma Ata, 15/VII/1977, W.J. Pulawsky" "*aurantiaca* det. Gorbatovsky", BMNH..
RUSSIA = (1) "Dagestan, Kraykovka, 1/VIII/1961", BMNH.
TURKEY = (2) "Caucasus, Araxesthal, Leder, Reitter", MHNW; (4) "Ibidem, Reitter 89", MHNW; (1) "Asia Min., Tuz Golu, rive settentrionali, 4/VII/1962, A. Giordani Soika" "*Meria soikai* n. sp. det. Dott. G. Guiglia" "Olotypus", CH; (1) "Turkey, Konya, B.v. Oorschot, W.O. de Prins", "15 km S of Karaman, 1200 m, 9/VII/1982, st 63", ZMA; (3) "Ibidem" "15 km S of Karaman, 1200 m., 19(VII/1985, st 269" ZMA; (4) "Turkey, Gaziantep, H.v. Oorschot & H. Wiering", "2 km N Fevzipasa, 600 m, 28/IX/1991, st 764", ZMA; (1)* "Ibidem" "14-22 km S Gaziantep, 29-30/IX/1991, st 770", ZMA.
TURKMENISTAN = (1) "Kopet-Dag, Kara kala, V. Gorbatovsky, *Meria aurantiaca* Gorbatovsky det.", "8/VII/1974"; (1), "11/VII/1974", MSNG. The stared (*) specimen has only 10 flagellomeres.

The lectotype at MHNP (established by GORBATOVSKY, 1981) is in poor conditions, lacking of the antennae and many tarsomeres; GUIGLIA (1964) gave a description of this specimen with a photo.

The oranged colour on the metasoma and the red colour of the legs seem to me the outcome of some chemical action rather than natural. The drawings of the more significant features are given at Fig. 23-34. Its distribution area seems ranging from Asia minor (and Rhodos) to Central Asia and southward to Mesopotamia and Israel. The light patterns of the males are as varying as it happens in the most of the other species; the type of *Meria soikai* has reduced yellow patterns on the pronotum, legs and metasoma.

The most recognizable feature (convincing antapomorphy) of the male is the shape of the pronotum. The BBS of the males compared with the lectotypus covers 1/4 of the flagellomeres; the ratios length/width vary from 1.25 to 1.40 for the 6th to 10th flagellomeres. Foreborder of the clypeus transparent. Clypeus mostly yellow. Upper metapleurae quite wrinkled; fore surface of the median femura absolutely hairless and shining.

Meria arabica (Guérin, 1837)

Myzine arabica Guérin, 1837:577, n. 10 (Lectotypus ♂, "Arabie"; MNHP,!)
Meria arabica: Guiglia (1964:4)
Arapatka arabica Argaman, 1994:94

GORBATOVSKY (1981) as lectotype of *Myzine arabica*, Guérin, 1837 established the specimen previously and briefly described by GUIGLIA (1964) and not considered the type by her. Its main features are drawn at the figures 35-45 showing its membership of the genus *Meria*, sensu Gorbatovsky (1979). The basic colour of the head, pronotum, meso- and metanotum is dark brown, while in the remainder of the mesosoma and metasoma is reddish brown. The

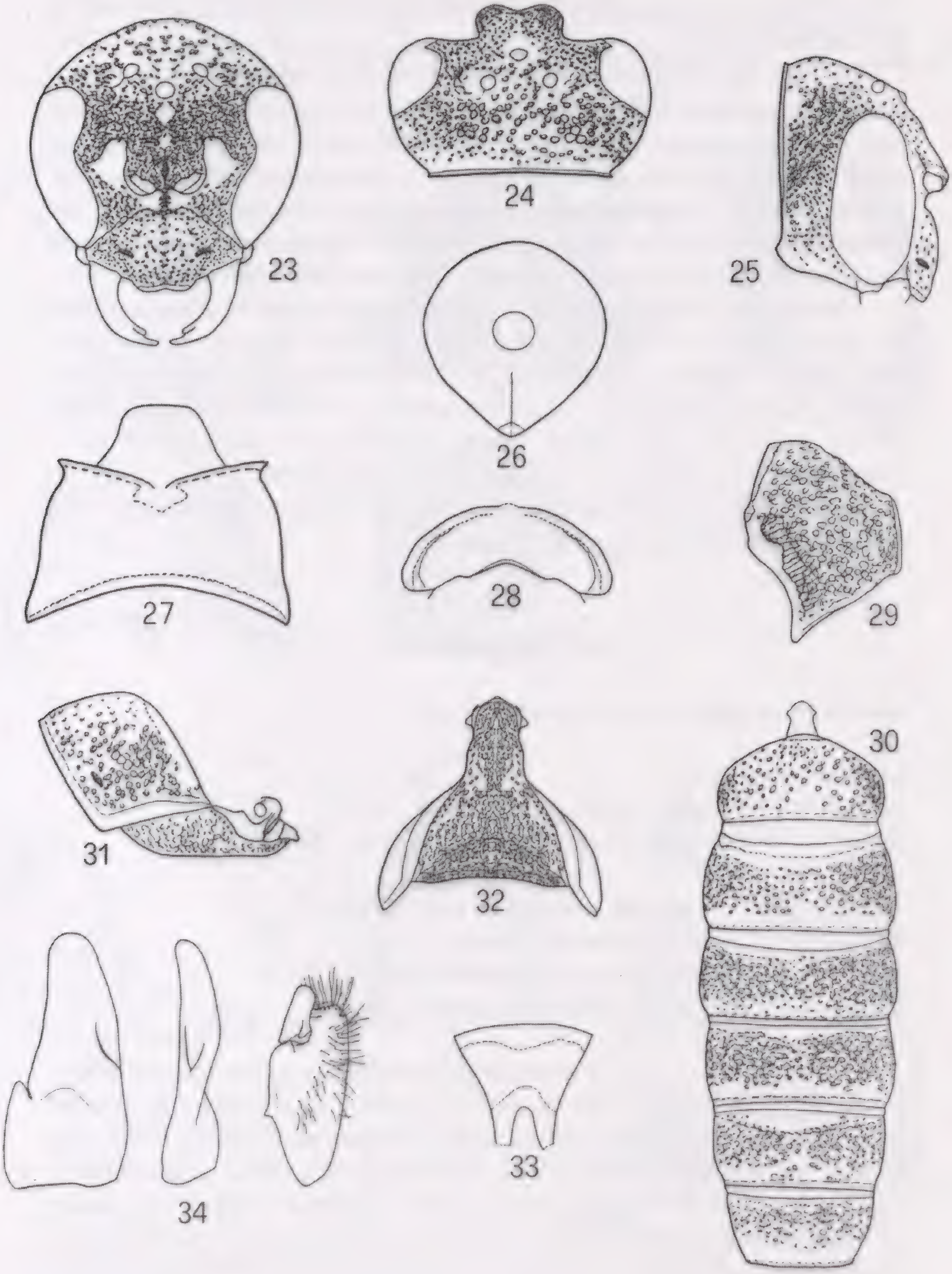

Fig. 23-34. *Meria aurantiaca*, Lectotypus ♂. 23: head in frontal aspect; 24: head in dorsal aspect; 25: head in lateral aspect; 26: head, occipital ring; 27. pronotum in dorsal aspect; 28: pronotal plate; 29: pronotum in lateral aspect; 30: metasoma (without epipygium) in dorsal aspect; 31: metasoma, 1st segment in lateral aspect; 32: metasoma, 1st sternum in dorsal aspect; 33: epipygium in dorsal aspect; 34: paramere & volsella.
Figs. 23-29 & 31-33 - Scale = 14:1. Fig. 30 - Scale 10:1. Fig. 34 - Scale = 28:1.

hair probably is mostly lost, but on the SAL and frons where it covers most of the underlying surface.

The BBS on the flagellum covers ¾ the width of its median segments. It has to be pointed out the stout petiole and the relatively big lateral keels at the base of the 1st sternum, well coming out of the lateral border of the tergum. Quite deep and large pits on the lower genae, pronotum and mesopleurae; propodeum roughly sculptured with a small and irregular shining surface just behind the spiracles; fore surface of the median femura absolutely shining and hairless; fore half of the terga with well impressed and relatively dense pits.

It lacks sterna and genitalia, so its taxonomical position is uncertain; there is a great similarity overall with some males from SW - Iran and partially with some males labelled *ashkabadensis* by Gorbatovsky from central Asia at BMNH, but the examination of its interrelations with other males of *Meria* will be object of a further work. The figures 85 and 86 given by ARGAMAN (1994) do not correspond at all to the lectotype of *Myzine arabica* (a sort of pronotal incision happens in *Myzine aurantiaca* Guérin, 1837 but it is much less marked) so they appear imaginative.

Meria thoracica Guérin, 1839

Meria thoracica Guérin, 1839:365 (Lectotypus ♀, Arabia, MHNP,!)

Material. - ♀ -
ARABIA: (1) "S. Arabia, Abu Arish, 24.3.80, KMG", BMNH
MALI: (5) "N-Mali, 350 m Tilemsi, 20/X-2/XI/81, G. Popov", BMNH
- ♂ -
ARABIA: (1) "S. Arabia, Abu Arish, 24.3.80, KMG", BMNH
BAHREIN: (1) "Bahrein, 23/IV/1970", BMNH
MALI: (8) "N-Mali, 350 m Tilemsi, 20/X-2/XI/81, G. Popov", BMNH
OMAN: (1) "Oman, Al Wafi, 18/III/1976", BMNH

GORBATOVSKY (1981), in establishing the lectotype of *thoracica* at MHNP, labelled it as synonym of *Meria arabica* (Guérin, 1837), hence he labelled "*M. arabica*" the specimens above quoted. All these males belong to the same species, but are heavily distinct from the lectotype of *arabica*, as tested by the figures. On the other side, the females can be ascribed to *thoracica*, sharing the main features into a little variability about colour patterns; for the sake of clearness the main features of its lectotype are given by the following description and figures.

FEMALE. Figs. 46-50. Meausurements (mm) - Body lenght: 8.8. Forewing lenght: 5.2.

In habitus is very similar to *tripunctata* (Between round brackets the equivalent features of the latter).

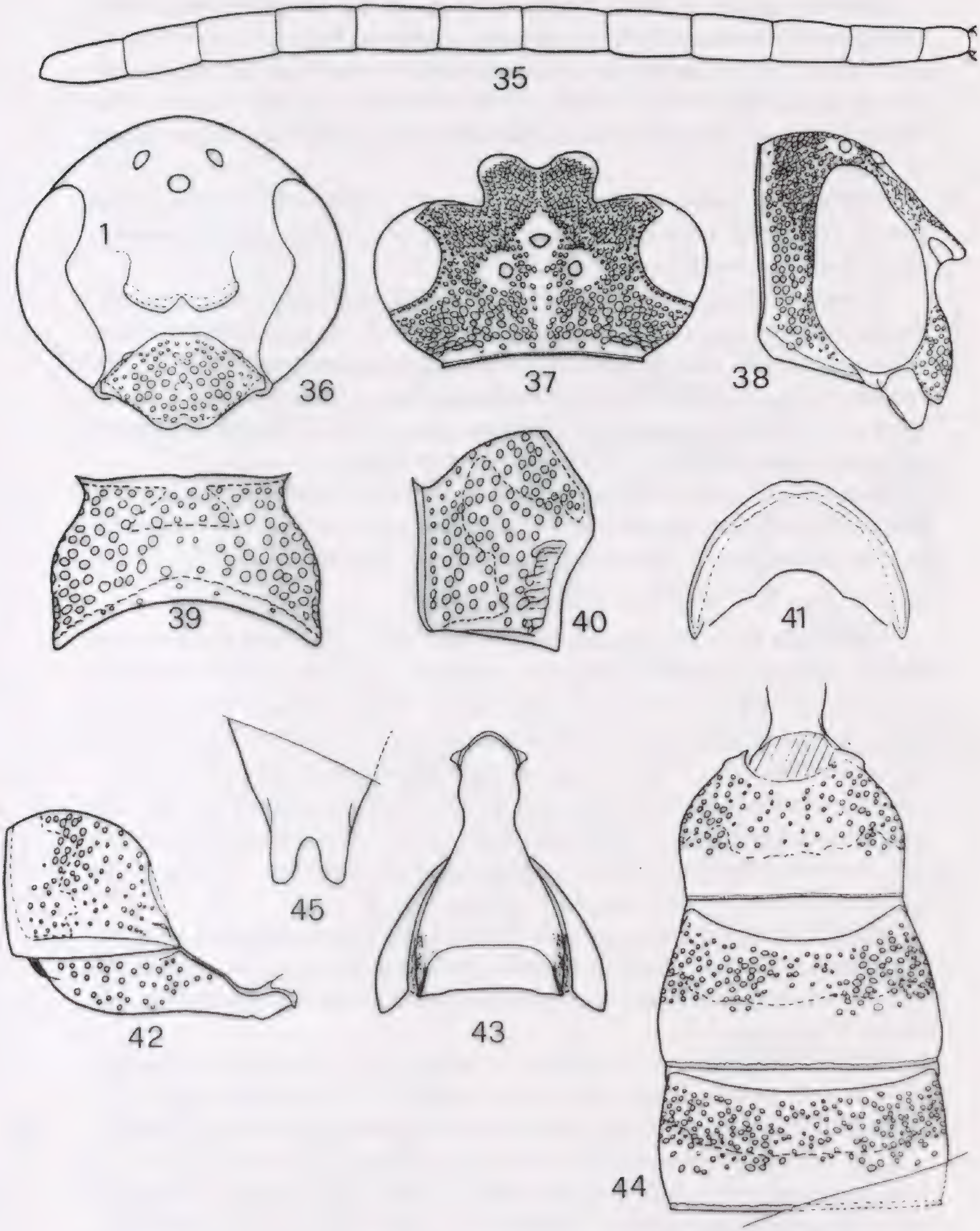

Fig. 35-45. *Meria arabica*, Lectotypus ♂. 35: head, flagellum; 36: head in frontal aspect; 37: head in dorsal aspect; 38: head in lateral aspect; 39: pronotum in dorsal aspect; 40: pronotum in lateral aspect; 41: pronotal plate; 42: metasoma, 1st segment in lateral aspect; 43: metasoma, 1st sternum in ventral aspect; 44: metasoma: basal terga in dorsal aspect; 45: epipygium in dorsal aspect.

Fig. 35-45 - Scale = 22:1.

Dark ferrugineous (almost black): head, mesosoma but pronuotum; bright ferrugineous: antennae, SAL, mandibulae, pronotum but a brownish tranversal belt with lighter lateral spots, mesopleural lobes, legs and the whole metasoa (pronotum and 1st to 4th sterna). White lateral spots on the 1st to 4th (2nd to 4th) terga of the metasoma. Subcircular dark ferrugineous spot on the middle 1st sternum (absent).

Head. Genal bridge absent; foreborder of the median clypeal lamella rectilinear (raised up laterally) viewed from below; temples narrower (wider) than largest eye width, in lateral view.

Mesosoma. Propodeal dorsal surface with few impressed cells on its foreberder near the angles of the postscutellum, a weak (strong) median furrow, rough punctuation near the lateral borders and above the petiole-foramen, the remainder and the lateral areas smooth and shining (strong wrinkles on the most of the dorsal surface). Forewing very pale yellow, hindwing completely colourless (both brownish, with a darker apical half).

Metasoma. A slight but well evident constriction between 1st and 2nd urite (almost undetectable); foreborder of 2nd tergum regularly concave (subrectilinear in the middle). 1st tergum: $R_{W/H}$ =2.3; 2nd tergum: $R_{W/H}$ =2.7; 3rd tergum: $R_{W/H}$ =2.7; W_2/W_1 = 1.26 (very similar).

VARIABILITY. The females from N-Mali share the main features with the *arabica's* lectotype showing fair variations in colour patterns and light spots: all of them have the basic body colour darker brown; two specimens show the typical light colour patterns; two specimens have four light pronotal spots, white spots on 2nd to 5th terga and red shadow also on propleurae, mesoscutum, scutellum, postscutellum and dorsal surface of propodeum; the fifth specimen lack of the spots on the pronotum and 5th tergum; the specimen from Abu Arish has the same colour disposition of the lectotype, lacking of the lighter spots on the pronotum and 1st tergum.

NOTE. Apart the colour patterns the best distinction characters from *tripunctata* are the head shape in frontal view, the sculpture of the propodeum and the only two satisfying autapomorphies, the dimorphic wings and the spot on the 1st sternum.

MALE. The following description is based on the specimen from Arabia. Figs. 51 - 62. Measurements (mm) - Body length: 14.5. Forewing length: 8.5.

Habitus very slender. Black, yellow and ferrugineous red. Yellow: half scape, a tip on the SAL, the whole clypeus but the semitransparent foreborder, mandibles, pronotum but a central triangular and two lateral spots, tegulae, mesopleural spots, mesopleural lamellae, ventral coxae, apical femura, most of the tibiae, tarsi, a band with a regular foreprofile covering less than half 1st to 5th terga, an irregular band on the 6th, two lateral spots on the 7th tergum and 2nd sternum, three spots on 3rd sternum and thin irregular apical bands on 4th to 6th sterna. 1st, 2nd and 3rd metameres have a ferrugineous red basic colour.

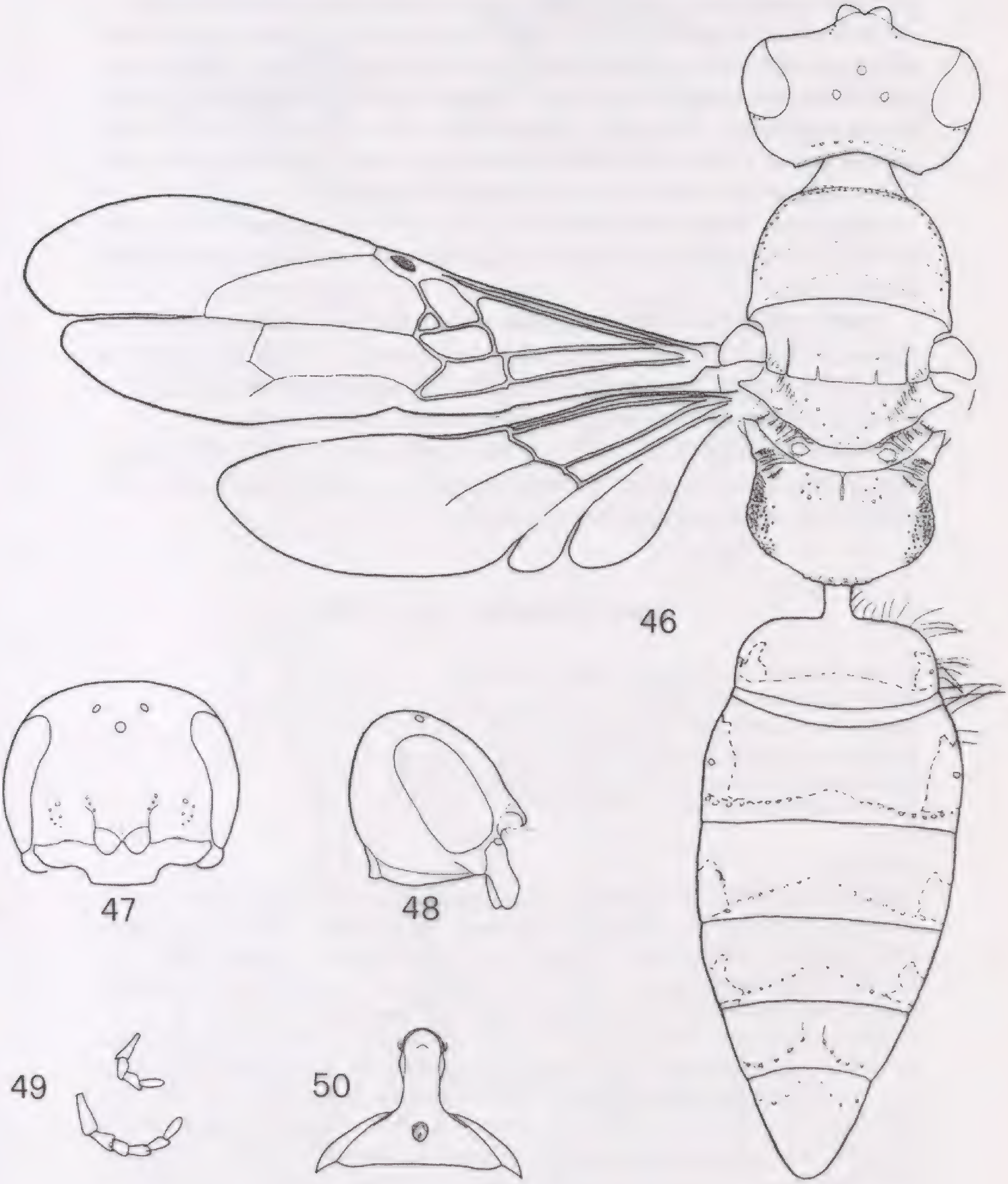

Fig. 46-50. *Meria thoracica*, Lectotypus ♀. 46: habitus in dorsal aspect; 47: head in frontal aspect; 48: head in lateral aspect; 49: palps; 50: metasoma, 1st sternum in ventral view.
Figs. 46-48 & 50 - Scale = 19.5:1. Fig. 49 - Scale 40.5:1.

Head. Prominent vertex in frontal view; median flagellar segments 2.4 to 2.6 times longer than wide and BBS just a bit more than half their width.

Mesosoma. Pronotal disk 2.4 times wider than its median height from above; no teeth on the anteroventral corner, its width only 1.1. times the height of the foreborder in lateral view; upper dorsal propodeal surface with a central impression, reversed-U shaped and with fairly ridged border, better pointed out at a 30° (to the longitudinal axis of the mesosoma) fore sight. Foresurface of the median femura shining and hairless.

Metasoma. Height ratios among terga are: $2^{nd}/1^{st} = 1.26$ and $3^{rd}/1^{st} = 1.36$; the ratio width/height of 2^{nd} tergum is more than 1.6; notch of epipygium with parallel sides.

VARIABILITY. In the other males specimens the flagellomeres are less elongate, their ratio width/height do not overcome 2.3 and the propodeal impression is more heavily ridged. In the specimens from Mali the yellow colour is more extended overall on the pronotum and metasoma.

NOTE. The male of this species is well characterized by the following seemingly clear autapomorphies: the bulging vertex, the ridged impression on the propodeum and the elongate basal metameres.

Meria latifasciata (Palma, 1869)

Myzine tripunctata var. *latifasciata* Palma, 1869:33, ♂
Myzine latifasciata: Costa (1887:118)
Meria martini Vachal, 1899 (♂ only):538!
Myzine laeta E. Saunders, 1901 (♂):532
Meria latifasciata: Guiglia (1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1964)
Upaterka latifasciata Argaman, 1994:94-95

Material - ♂ -

ALGERIA = (1) “Biskra” “Collezione Gribodo” “*latifasciata*, Palma, det. D. Guiglia”, MSNG; *(1) “Biskra, 30.V.54” “*M. latifasciata* f. *laeta* Saund, det. D. Guiglia”, MSNG; *(2) “Algerie, Biskra, 26.V.1948, J. De Beaumont” “*M. latifasciata* f. *laeta* Saund., det. D. Guiglia”, MZL.

EGYPT = *(2) “Egypt, Maragi, 14.VIII.1935, J. Omer Cooper” “Armstrong College expedition B.M. 1935-354” (One labelled “*Meria martini* Vachal, Gorbatovsky det.”), BMNH.

ITALY = (2) Calabria - “Calabria”, Coll. Costa, MUN. = (1) Sicily - Palermo, “Capaci, spiaggia, 8-VII-1944”, CB; (1) Palermo, “Capaci, spiaggia, 11-VII-1944” “*Meria caspica* Rad., Gorbatovsky det.”, CB; (2) “Agrigento, Eraclea Minoa, 14/VIII/1980, su Acacia sp., BONI BARTALUCCI leg.”, CBB.

LYBIA = *(1) “Libia occ., Museo Libico, Beni Wid (?), 26.VI.38, leg. Geo. Kruger”, MSNG.

MAROC = *(1) “Maroc, Boumalne, (Ksar es Sk à Ouarzazate) 7.VI.1947, J. De Beaumont” “*latifasciata* f. *laeta*, Saund, det. D. Guiglia”, MZL; (1) “Maroc. Goulimine, 4.V.1947, J. De Beaumont” “latifasciata”, MZL.

TUNISIA = *(2) “S. Tunisia, nr. Saidane, Kebili area, 1.VIII.1978” & “S. Tunisia, Tozeur, 2.VIII.1978” both labelled “K.M. Guichard, G.R. & A.C. Else, B.M. 1978-574” “*Meria martini* Gorbatovsky det. 1987”, BMNH; *(1) “Tunesia, Tozeur (steppe), 30.V.1973, M.C. & G. Kruseman” “*Meria latifasciata* Palma, Det. R. Hensen 1986”, ZMA.

* = with red basal urites.

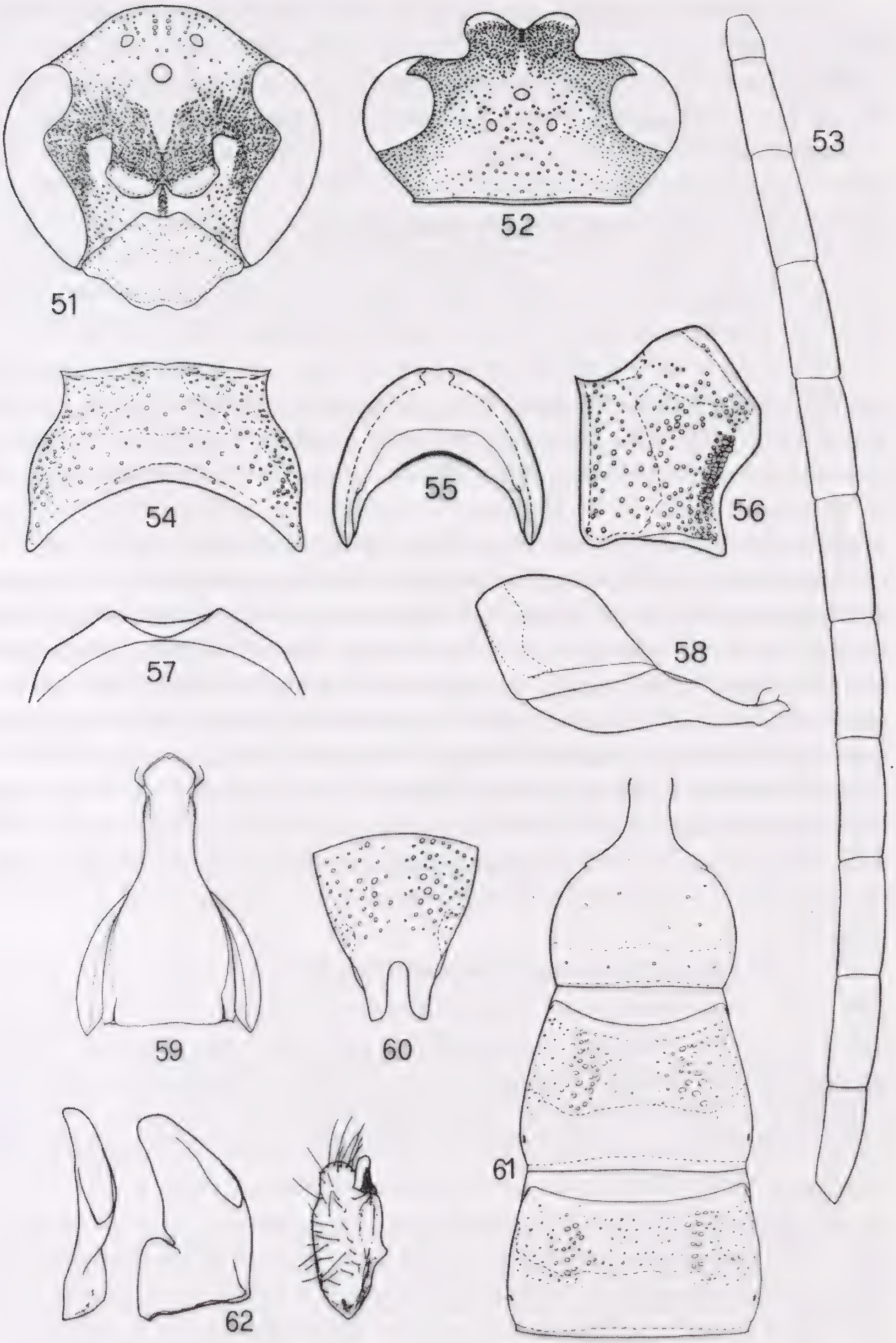

Fig. 51-62. *Meria thoracica*, ♂. 51: head in frontal aspect; 52: head in dorsal aspect, 53: flagellum; 54: pronotum in dorsal aspect ; 55: pronotal plate; 56: pronotum in lateral aspect; 57: propodeum in 30° dorso-frontal aspect; 58: metasoma, 1st segment in lateral aspect; 1st sternum in ventral view; 60 metasoma, basal terga in dorsal aspect; 61: epipygium in dorsal aspect; 62: paramere & volsella.

Figs. 51-61 - Scale = 18:1. Fig. 62 - Scale 35:1.

The type doesn't exist anymore. Palma (1869) in his diagnosis assigned this variety to *volvulus*, a taxon not directly known by him. Costa (1887:117-118) certainly knew the specimens described by Palma and first recognized the validity of this species, giving the main distinction character separating it from *volvulus*, he considered a varitey of *tripunctata*. The specimens here quoted correspond to the diagnosis of Costa and Guiglia (1959, 1960, 1961 and 1964). The figures 63-74 are drawn by the specimen from Sicily labelled "Capaci, spiaggia, 11.VII.1944" and uncorrectly determined "*caspica*" by Gorbatovsky (I examined two specimens from central Asia determined "*caspica*" too by him and they are actually referred to another species, having a less rounded head, a forward strongly narrow-necked pronotum, a roughly sculpturated propodeum, wrinkled metapleurae, two prominent apophysis at the base of the 1st sternum and different genitalia). Its main distinction characters are (between rounded brackets some corresponding characters of *tripunctata* O): flagellomeres lenght no more than twice its width (about 2.5 times), the BBS covering half their width (1/3); maximum width of eye more than twice temple width (about 1.5 times); anteroventral corner of the pronotum without prominent tooth; pronotal width always less than 2.5 times its median height from above; upper metapleurae almost completely smooth and shining, without wrinkles (quite wrinkled); the border between upper metapleura and propodeal lateral area is a simple line (like a stitch); anterior surface of the median femura absolutely hairless (entirely covered by weak hair); wings colourless; anterior surface of the first tergum subparallel to basal profile in lateral view (forming an acute angle); punctuation of terga scarce and weakly impressed; the large light bands on the terga with an almost entire foreprofile (dentate foreprofile); paramere with a straight tip and a prominence on its inner border (paramere without inner prominence).

The other quoted sicilian specimens do not differ but a little in the disposition of the colour patterns and the specimens with ferrugineous urites show stable differences in having a broader BBS; some latter specimens have also a more prominent pronotal keel and a more stressed forward narrowing of the pronotal disk; all of them share the other main characters. Guiglia (1960) stated the identity of *latifasciata* with the male of *Meria laeta* (E. Saunders, 1901) and then (1963) with the male of *Meria martini* Vachal, 1899, ultimately considered by her as "*latifasciata* morpha *martini*", referring to it all the specimens with ferrugineous basal urites; apart the obsolence of the "morpha" category, the name *martini* is undisposable because it refers to the female which actually belongs to *Parameria femorata* (Boni Bartalucci, 1994). Also *Myzine laeta* E. Saunders, 1901, referring now to the female designated as lectotype by Gorbatovsky (1981) even if E. Saunder first described the male in his diagnosis, is an actual *Meria* sensu Gorbatovsky (1979). The supposed female, its relations with other palearctic taxa and its infraspecific variability have to be more deeply investigated. At any rate we can be sure of concluding that the genus *Upaterka* Argaman, 1994, having *latifasciata* as species-typus, has no ground to be maintened; its distinctive characters given by Argaman are at least unclear besides weak and not significant and its figure 81 with the statement "wings conspicuously infuscated" appears imaginative.

Meria sanguinicollis F. Morawitz, 1893

Meria sanguinicollis F. Morawitz, 1893:398, ♀, Samarkand.
Meria sanguinicollis: Guiglia (1974:271, ♀)

Material - ♂ -
KAZAKISTAN = (1) "Bugaziu Chami, na iuv. Ot Tianshania, 25/VIII/(18)95, Robkozlow" "*Myzine sanguinicollis* F.M., det. Kohl", MSNG; (1) "Iu-3 Tadg. Ghigr ialka, 8/VII/1975, V. Gorbatovsky leg." "*sanguinicollis* det. Gorbatovsky, 1978", BMNH.

MALE. Figs 75-80. The specimens quoted are similar in size (about 15 mm.) and colours patterns; yellow: SAL tips, clypeus but a translucent foreborder, pronotum but a central and two lateral black spots, a large spot on the mesopleurae, most of the legs, large bands with entire profile on the 2nd to 6th terga, a band with sinuated foreprofile on the 1st, two lateral spots on the epipygium, narrower bands on the sterna.

Median flagellomeres long twice high, the BBS covers the entire surface. Metapleurae weakly wrinkled. Foresurface of the median femura hairless. In habitus is similar to *aurantiaca* male, from which it is distinguished by the shape of the head, pronotum, epipygium and genitalia.

Meria sabae n. sp.

Material.
Holotypus ♀: YEMEN = "Yemen Sana'a, V.1992, A. van Harten, mal. trap"; ZMA
Paratypus ♀: YEMEN = "Yemen mabar, VII-VIII.1992, M-Mahyoub, light trap"; ZMA
Paratypus ♂: YEMEN = "Yemen Sana'a, 10:VIII.1991, A. v. Harten, on flowering Mentha"; ZMA

FEMALE. Figs. 90-94. Holotype. Measurements (mm) - Body lenght: 9.8. Forewings: 6.0 Black, ferrugineous, brown and whitish. The body is shining, enamelled black. Antennae, SAL, mandibulae, clypeus, mesopleural lobes, legs but forecoxae, tegulae and wing venations are brown. Forewing brownish, hindwing almost colorless. Metasoma entirely ferrugineous, with a detectable whitish lateral spot only on the 2nd tergum.

Head. Genae regularly rounded; from above, distance between eye and LO almost three times longer than distance between MO and LO. Genal bridge absent.

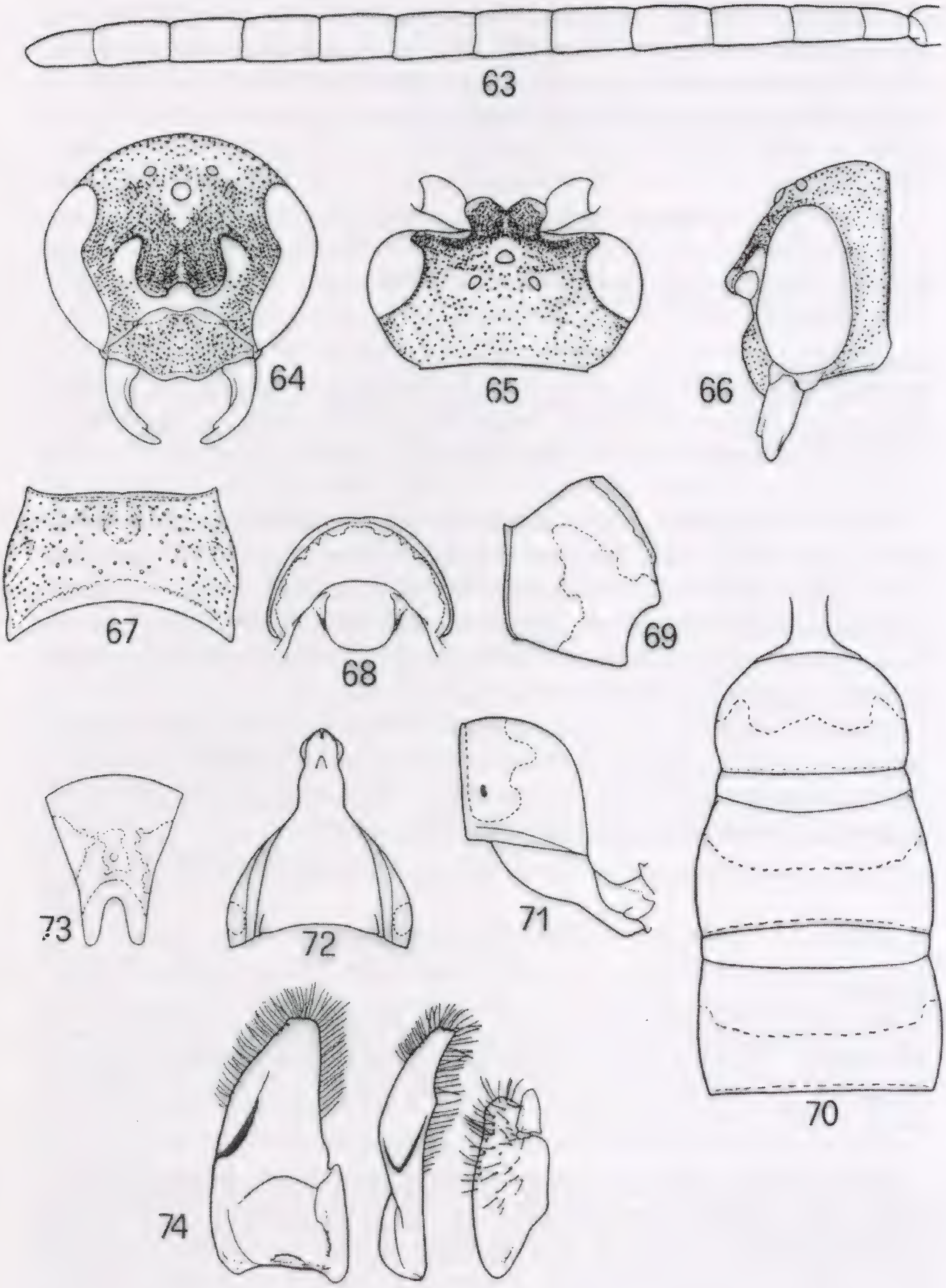

Fig. 63-74. *Meria latifasciata*, ♂. 63: flagellum; 64: head in frontal aspect; 65: head in dorsal aspect, 66: head in lateral view; 67: pronotum in dorsal aspect ; 68: pronotal plate; 69: pronotum in lateral aspect; 70: metasoma, basal terga in dorsal aspect; 71: metasoma, 1st segment in lateral aspect; 72: metasoma, 1st sternum in ventral aspect; 73: epipygium in dorsal aspect; 74: genitalia, paramere & volsella.
Figs. 63-73 - Scale = 16:1. Fig. 74 - Scale 32:1.

Mesosoma. Upper surface of the mesosoma almost impunctate. Propodeum with a well impressed median sulcus and weak wrinkles around the propodeal spiracles and along the lateral borders of its dorsal surface.

Metasoma. A clear constriction between 1st and 2nd terga; 1st tergum: $R_{W/H}=2.6$; 2nd tergum: $R_{W/H}=3.3$; 3rd tergum: $R_{W/H}=3.4$; $W_2/W_1=1.4$ Foreborder of 2nd tergum regularly concave forward. Lines of points on the terga and sterna very close and subparellel to their apical boders. The petiole is really stout.

MALE. Figs 81-89. Paratype. Measurements (mm) - Body: 13.2; Forewing: 8.7.

Black and yellow. These parts are yellow: clypeus and mandibles, most of the pronotum, two spots on the scutellum, one big spot on the mesopleurae, mesosternal lobes, tegulae, foresurface of the coxae, apical half of the femura, most of the tibiae, tarsi, big apical bands (with sinuous foreborder and covering more than half the segment on 2nd to 6th terga), an irregular transversal spot on 1st and 7th terga, a band with two small circular black spots on 2nd sternum, a regular apical band on 3rd to 6th sterna, two transversal spots on 7th sternum. Whitish hair on the whole body; on the propodeum the hair is dense, covering the rough underlying sculpture.

Head. In frontal view vertex somewhat prominent with an evident impression around lateral ocelli and longitudinally on the frons between MO and SAL; SAL fused in their basal half; from above genae much receding toward the occipital foramen; occipital carina strongly developed; black median keel of the clypeal foreborder, base of the oral fossa poorly developed, leaving the space for a little genal bridge.

Final flagellomeres 1.2 - 1.3 longer than wide, with a subtriangular section; BBS very broad, extending more than half their actual surface (estimated through their section).

Mesosoma. Regular keel on the pronotal foreborder, vanishing just on the upper middle; the anteroventral corner of the pronotum broadly rounded; metapleurae and lateral propodeal areas wrinkled; propodeal dorsal surface posteriorly compressed, its horizontal area quite thin. Hairless foresurface of the median femura.

Metasoma. 1st tergum globose.

VARIABILITY. The paratype ♀ is smaller (7.8 mm); no light spots on the orange toned metasoma.

DISTRIBUTION. The typical locality only.

ECOLOGY. Unknown

DERIVATIO NOMINIS. From the ancient kingdom of Saba.

NOTE. The different ratios between the distance LO-E and LO-MO, the shape of the head and overall the peculiar small 1st urite and the relative sizes of the first 3 terga are sufficient to characterize the taxon from the other palaearctic species. It is also well segregated from *thoracica*, besides the colour patterns, in the shape of the petiole and in the lines of points subparal-

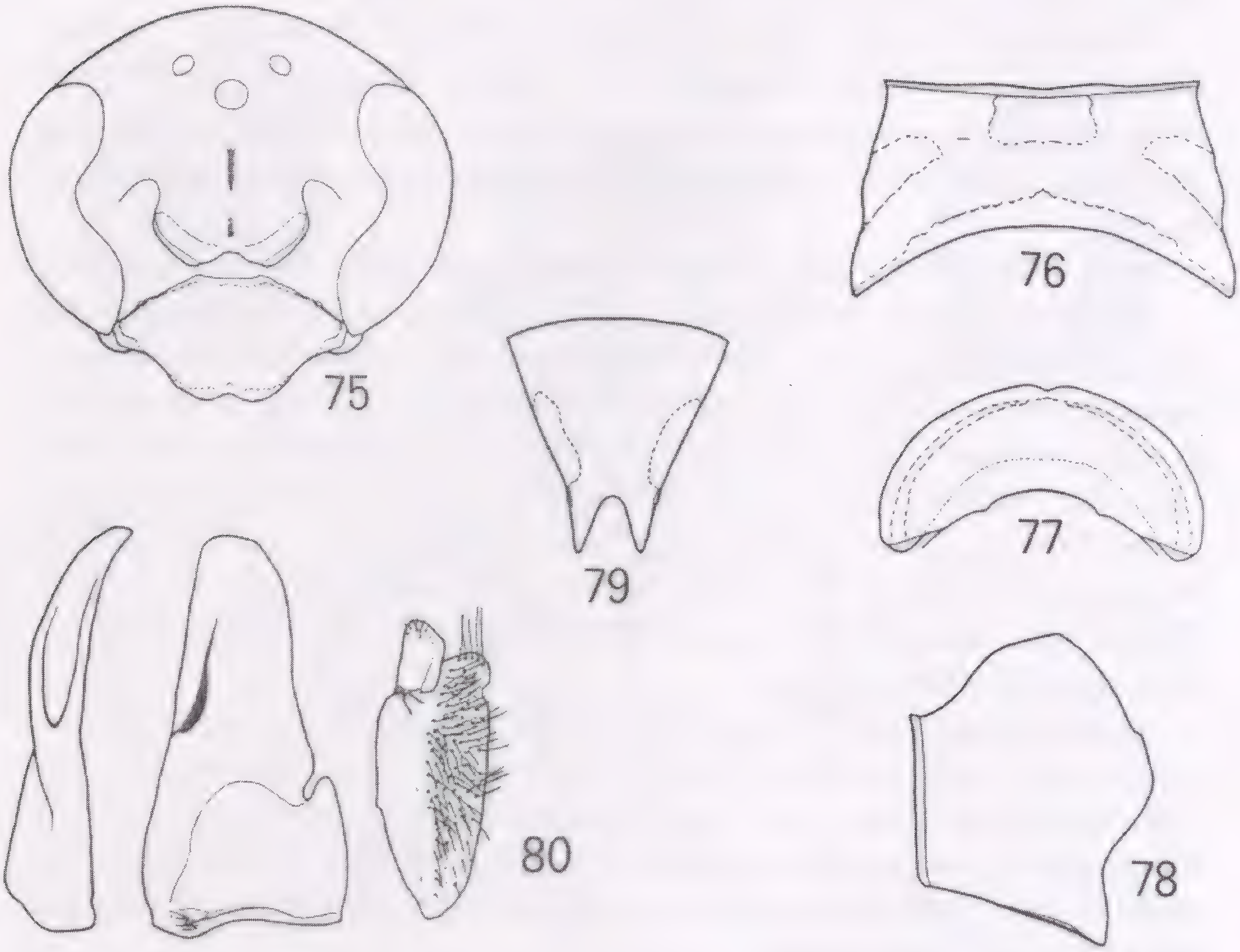

Fig. 75-80. *Meria sanguinicollis*, ♂. 75: head in frontal aspect; 76: pronotum in dorsal aspect, 77: pronotal plate; 78: pronotum in lateral view; 79: epipygium in dorsal aspect; 80. paramere / volsella.
Figs. 75-79 - Scale = 15:1. Fig. 80 - Scale = 26:1.

lel to the apical tergal borders. The association of the male here quoted is due to the same capture locality and collector; the male is well distinct from the other taxa overall by the following peculiarities of the head: receding genae, strong occipital carina, presence of a genal bridge, black clypeal keel, very broad BBS.

Genus Myzinella Guiglia, 1959

Myzinella Guiglia, 1959: 2-5 [species typus: *Myzinella patrizii* Guiglia, 1959; ♂; MSNG! = *Myzinella lybica* (Masi, 1933); ♀, MSNG!]
Myzinella: Gorbatovsky (1979: 613, 615)
Illoswia Argaman, 1994: 91-92. SYN. NOV.

The following characters have to be added to the generic features given by GORBATOVSKY (1979):

- the inner joints of the SAL always spaced at gaps less than SAL width in the females, longer in the males (in frontal view; character which first Argaman pointed out);

- the 4-6 palpal formula;

- the lower frons in the males medially raised up to join the frontal inner SAL space;

- in the females the lines of points on the 2nd to 4th terga, not close on their border and confined to their sides, are strongly bent, subtending a subelliptic fairly raised area, with a middle gap broader than their combined width;

- the crease separating lateroterga present on 2nd to 5th terga of the males, absent on the females.

In a general way I don't agree with the Argaman's (1994) assert about the close relationship between *Myzinella* and the other genera of his subfamily Iswarinae, *Iswara* and *Milluta*. The BB throughout the entire flagellar surface (while the former genera lack them) and the male genitalia in the 4-6 palpal formula in both sexes (instead of a 2-3 palpal formula in the formers) confirm their relative distance, revealing on the contrary its relationship with *Meria* and relatives. Moreover in the females of *Iswara tartarus* and of *Milluta mateui* the crease separating the laterotergum is present on 1st to 4th terga. By the way Argaman based his subfamily Iswarinae at its key number 19 on the character, "male antennal toruli vertical, confined to plane of front (Fig. 26)", objectively wrong, as the SALs bearing the toruli always out of the plane of the front are one of the best autapomorphies of the Myzininae (KIMSEY 1991). At last Argaman erected a new genus *Illoswia*, basing it on *Myzine braunsi* Turner, 1912 giving also the drawing of the lateral aspect of the abdomen and a brief description at the relative generic item of his identification key; both of them cannot refer to the Holotype of

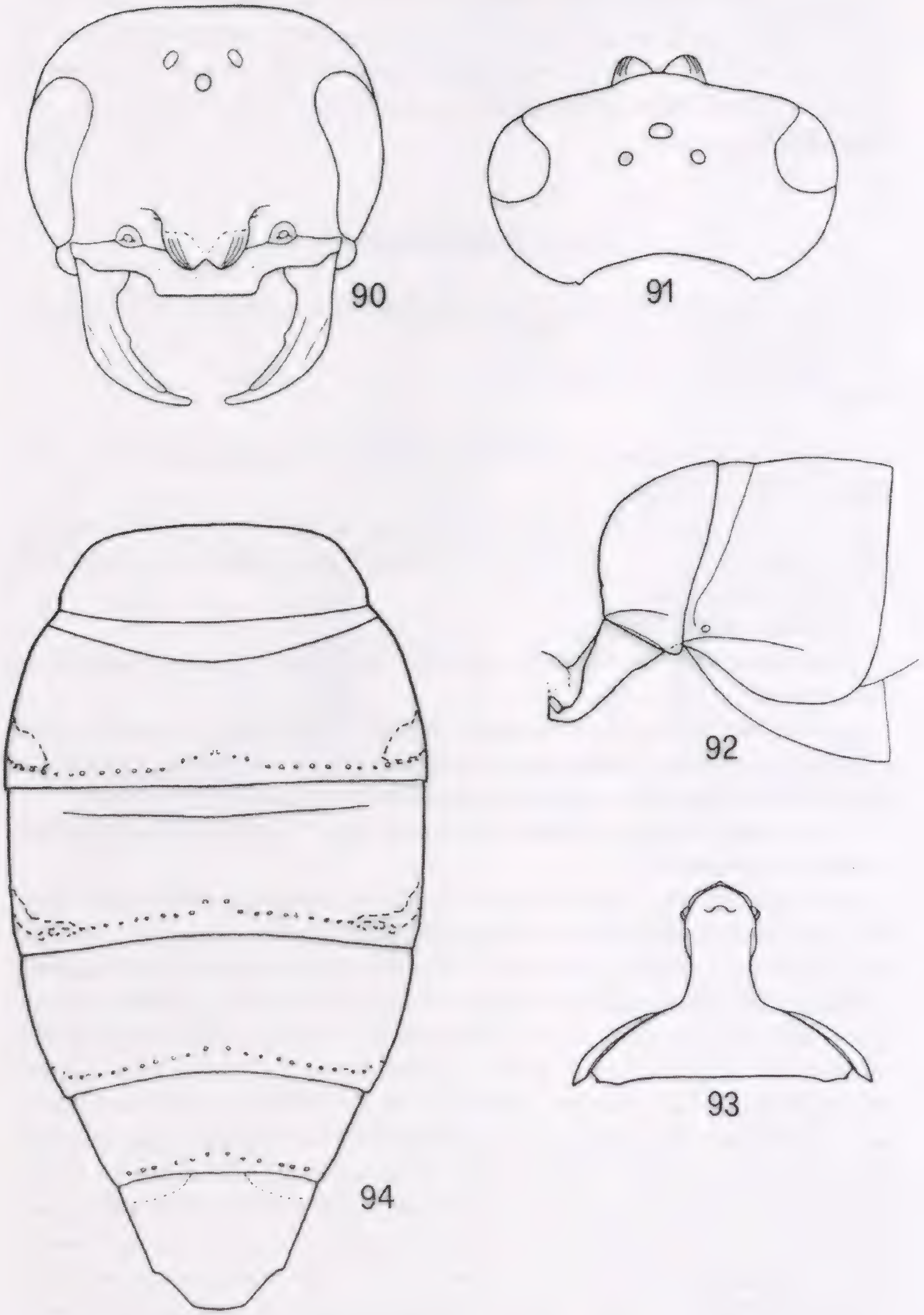

Fig. 90-94. *Meria sabae*, sp. n., holotypus ♀. 90: head in frontal aspect, 91: head in dorsal aspect; 92: metasoma, basal segments in lateral aspect; 93: metasoma, 1st sternum in ventral aspect. 94: metasoma in dorsal aspect.
Figs. 90-94 - Scale = 22:1.

Myzine braunsi Turner, 1912 which has pocket-like invagination (the colpus of Argaman) on the foreborder of 2nd to 6th terga and at the middle of the 3rd to 6th sterna, but no "terga 3-6 with vertical platform anteriorly, delimited from tergal disk by a ridge"; the last one is a feature of the Holotype of *Myzine swalei* Turner, 1912, a taxon rightly ascribed to *Myzinella* by GORBATOVSKY (1981); it follows from that the synonymy of *Illoswia* Argaman, 1994 with *Myzinella* Guiglia, 1959.

Myzinella lybica (Masi, 1933) (♀&♂), *M. flavicollis* (F. Morawits, 1896) (♂), *M. clacivornis* (Turner, 1909) (♂), *M. zarudnyi* Gorbatovsky (♂), from the Palearctic and *M. swalei* (Turner, 1911) (♂) from the Afrotropical Region are the taxa previously described.

Myzinella maura n. sp.

Material.
Holotypus ♀: MAURITANIA = "Mauritanie, Fort-Gouraud, Berland, XI-1948" "pas Bethylidae, O, Myzinide? det P.L.G. Benoit 1952", MHNP.
Paratypus ♂: MAURITANIA = "Mauritanie, Fort - Gouraud" "A. Villiers, Mars 1949", MHNP.

FEMALE. Holotype, Figs. 95-104. Measurements (mm) - Body: 5.5. Forewing: 3.0.

Brown and light brown. Light brown: clypeus, antennae, mandibulae, pronotum, mesosternal lobes, tegulae, legs and abdomen. Pterostigma white, wings colorless. Brown hair on the head, dark yellow on the remainder.

MALE. Paratype, Figs. 105-113. Measurements (mm) - Body: 7.6; Forewing: 4.1.

Black brown and yellow. Yellow: mandibles, tips of the SAL, a large basal pronotal band, tegulae, tip of the femura, most of the tibiae, tarsi, three basal small spots on the 2nd tergum, a basal band with a regular foreprofile on 3rd to 5th terga, a band with a sinuous foreprofile on the 6th tergum. Brown: antennae, the remainder of the legs and the basic colour of the metasoma. White hair on the whole body.

NOTE. The habitus and features are better evidenced by the enclosed drawings (Figs. 95-104). Here it matters to point out its distinctive characters: the shape of the head, well showed by the frontal and lateral views, with a right angle between frontal and vertex planes; the pentagonal shape of the oral fossa. The male and female share one autapomorphy, the straight inner border of the eye-tops. The female shows other three convincing autapomorphies: the trapezoidal oral fossa, the squared pronotal disk and overall the toothless hindtarsal claw. The habitus of the male is very similar to *Myzinella lybica* (Masi, 1933) from which it is distinguished, besides

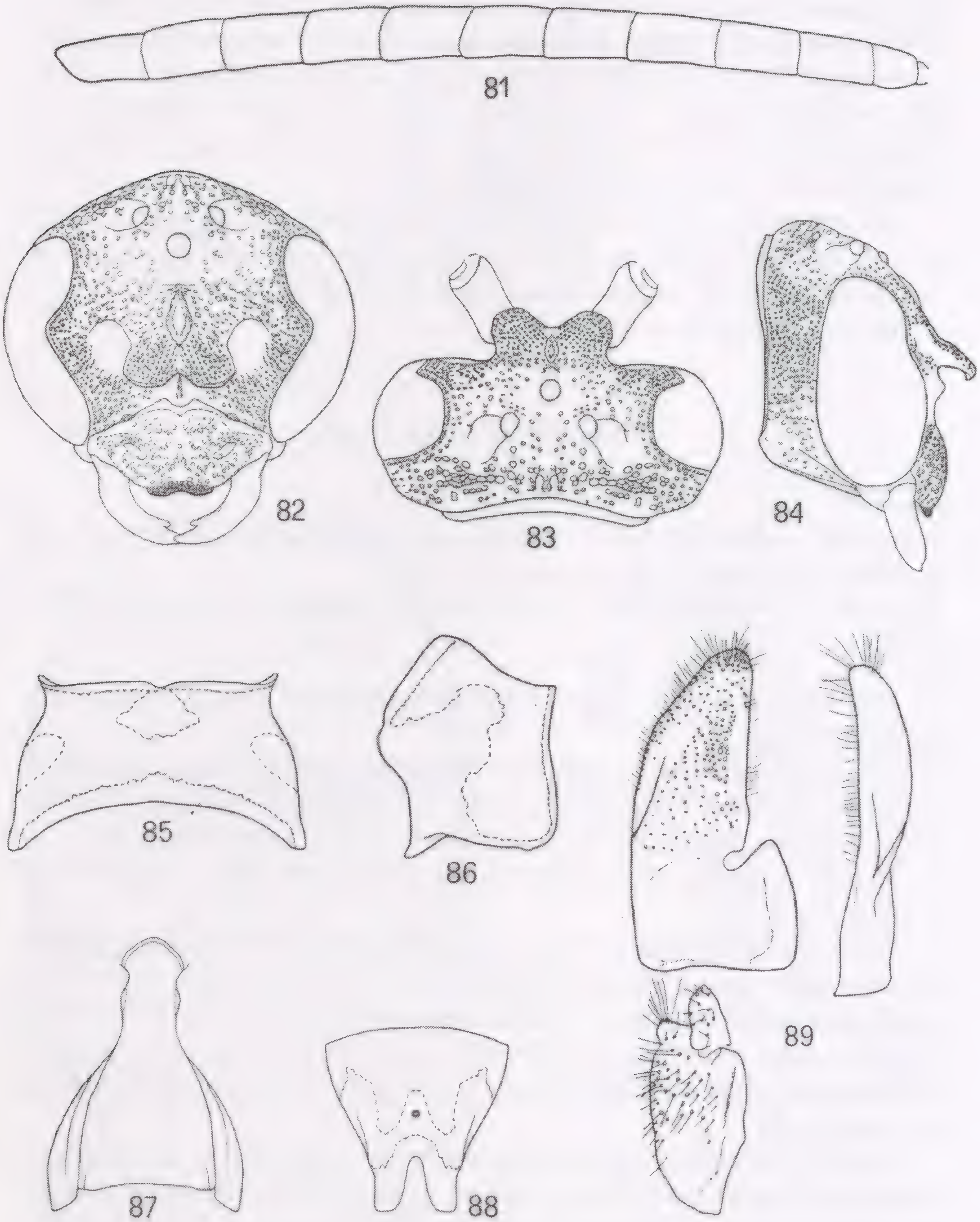

Fig. 81-89. *Meria sabae*, sp. n., paratypus ♂. 81: flagellum; 82: head in frontal aspect; 83: head in dorsal aspect; 84: head in lateral aspect; 85: pronotum in dorsal aspect; 86: pronotum in lateral aspect; 87: metasoma, 1^{st} sternum in ventral aspect; 88: epipygium in dorsal aspect; 89: paramere & volsella.
Fig. 81-88 - Scale = 18:1. Fig. 89 - Scale 36:1.

the straight inner border of the eyes, by a different shape of the pronotal plate, the lack of the spot on the scutellum and 1st tergum, the more acute tip of the pygidial lobes, the genitalia, the lighter colour of the metasoma, the 3rd SMC much smaller than 2nd (it is bigger in the four specimens of *lybica* I have seen).

DISTRIBUTION. The typical locality only.

DERIVATIO NOMINIS. From the ancient latin name of the populations, the "Mauri", from NW Africa.

Genus Parameria Guérin, 1837

Parameria Guérin, 1837:537 (note), ♀ (Species typus: *Parameria femorata*)
Yooloa Argaman, 1994:92 Syn. Nov.

Parameria femorata Guérin, 1837

Parameria femorata Guérin, 1837:580 (note) ♀
Myzine albohirta Turber, 1920:265 (Holotypus, ♂, Egypt, BMNH!)
Parameria femorata: Gorbatovsky (1981:381, ♀&♂)
Yooloa vircola Argaman, 1994:97-98 Syn. Nov.

The description ARGAMAN (1994) gave of male specimens on which he based the new species *Yooloa vircola* perfectly fit to the Turner's species and is noteworthy the identity of the striking sterna and epipygium in the two taxa; the scape and flagellum, the unique figures Argaman supplies with, are also identical; the only one discrepancy is the tibial spur formula, 1-1-2 in *vircola*, while is 1-2-2 in *albohirta* as it happens in all the Myzininae I have seen and KIMSEY himself states (1991) to be their feature in opposition to the sister group Methochinae, so I can hazard to presume either a misinterpretation by Argaman or an aberration into the populationn the males he described come from.

Though the typical material of *Yooloa vircola* has been unaccessible, I feel the aforesaid new synonymy highly probable. The female of *Parameria femorata* has been already recorded from Israel (BONI BARTALUCCI 1997) and at MSNG exists another female specimen so labelled: "Palestine, ?, ? 19.." probably collected by Bytinsky-Salz; unfortunately the ink of the unprinted portions scattered making them unreadable.

Genus Poecilotiphia Cameron, 1902

Poecilotiphia Cameron, 1902:274 (species typus: *Poecilotiphia albomaculata* Cameron, 1902; ♂; BMNH!)
Dermasothes Menozzi, 1941:263
Fongiba Argaman, 1994:93 Syn. Nov.
Jurja Argaman, 1994:93 Syn. Nov.
Hahiya Argaman, 1994:94 Syn. Nov.
Ivazuga Argaman, 1994:94 Syn. Nov.
Nurmiya Argaman, 1994:94 Syn. Nov.
Myzina Rafinesque, 1815: Argaman (1994: 85 & 94)

This genus is here considered according to the generic diagnosis given by GORBATOVSKY (1979) as *Dermasothes*; nevertheless in the course of the study of a lot of palearctic material the following corrections and additions have to be made.

- In the females the distance between ocellar triangle base and occipital margin in some cases can be much less than half its length (BONI BARTALUCCI 1994), the clypeus often bears a clear prominent median lamella on its foreborder, the wings are very often colourless, in at least two species the horizontal dorsal surface of propodeum is entirely covered by a light but clear and dense sculpture; finally the palpal formula has to be changed from 1-4 for MP and 2-3 for LP in 1-5 and 2-4 respectively.

- In the males the BB are confined to the impressions usually limited to the final four flagellomeres.

- The lateroterga are separated from terga by a weak crease on the 1st to 4th segments of the metasoma of the females (the crease on the 3rd is much less than half its lenght; the crease on the 4th segment is vestigial, often hidden by the edge of the anterior one) and on the 1st to 6th terga of the males.

KROMBEIN (1937) referred that "Rafinesque accredits *Myzina* (a nomen nudum) to Latreille and the name may thus be regarded as either a "lapsus calami" or typografical error for *Myzine* Latreille, 1803"; the last one is now considered a french vernacular form for *Myzinum*, the true name for the New world species formerly placed in *Myzine*. Spinola (1843) used the generic name *Myzina* for his *hispanica* and *ghilianii*, both of them actually junior synonims of *Myzine rousseli* Guérin, 1838 (GUIGLIA: 1961 and 1968); at the same time in his diagnosis he refers to *Myzine haemorrhoidalis* Guérin, 1837 from Southern Africa to conclude: "Ces trois Myzines appartiennent-elles rèellement a trois èspèces diferentes? Il est permis d'en douter; ...". It is plain that for him and *Myzina* were the same and we can consider the latter an italian vernacular form. On account of all that we fully agree with KROMBEIN'S INsinking the name *Myzina* and refusing the ARGAMAN'S opinion (1994, 85 and 94); we also could underline ARGAMAN'Sneglecting of the Guiglia's work about *rousseli* taxon, which otherwise undoubtly belongs to *Poecilotiphia*, sensu GORBATOVSKY (1979 and 1981); the distinctive characters Argaman sup-

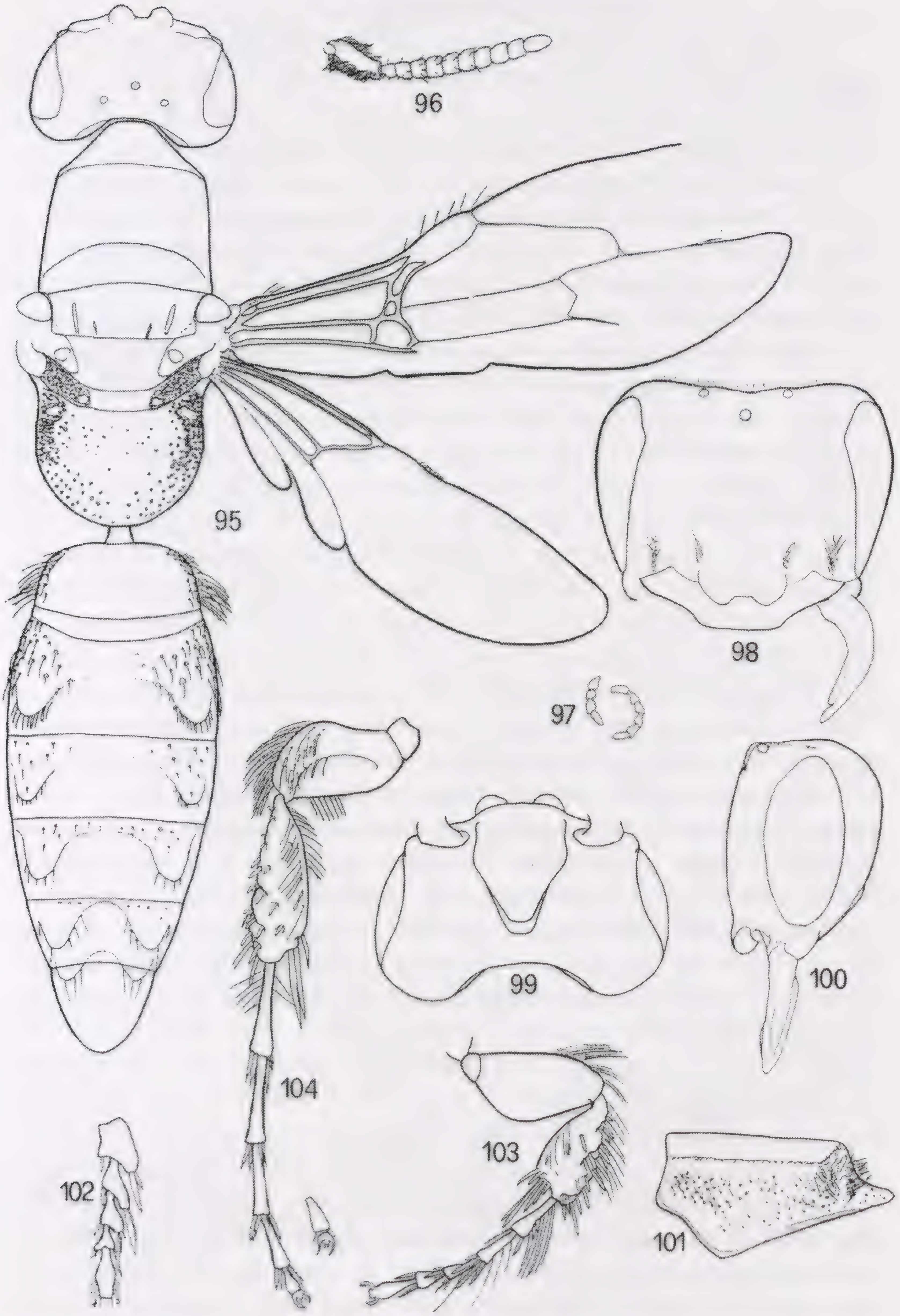

Fig. 95-104. *Myzinella maura*, sp. n., holotypus ♀. 95: habitus in dorsal aspect; 96: antenna; 97: palps; 98: head in frontal aspect; 99: head in ventral aspect; 100: head in lateral aspect; 101: pronotum in lateral aspect; 102: foretarsomeres in frontal aspect; 103: median leg in frontal aspect; 104 hindleg in frontal aspect, with the last tarsomere in detail.
Figs. 95-104 - Scale = 26:1.

plied with can only have specifical meaning.

The distinction characters into the tribe Poecilotiphiini described for the genera *Fongiba* and *Jurja*, with their opposites at N. 58 for the genera *Poecilotiphia* and *Myzina*, are greatly inadequate to erect new generic taxa, hence we consider all them synonymus of *Poecilotiphia* Cameron, 1902.

Moreover the distinctive character of the females Argaman ascribed to his "tribe" Poecilotiphiini [N. 54: "abdomen of female with the transverse row of large punctures on terga 3-5 confined and parallel to the apical margin (c.f. Fig. 87)"] for the genera *Fongiba, Jurja, Poecilotiphia* and *Myzina*, does not correspond neither to the real female of *rousseli*, the *Myzine andrei* Ferton, 1911 the lectotype of which I redescribed, nor to the so far known females of other *Poecilotiphia* species (Boni Bartalucci 1994) (he claims the females of *Fongiba* and *Jurja* to be unknown); all these females share "the transverse row of large punctures on terga 3-5 bisinuate, broadly interrupted mesad, and bent toward middle of terga", i.e. the character ascribed to the other "tribe" Macromeriini. Because of that and the obscure, weak, unique separation character for the males, I feel any ground for this tribal separation is vanishing. Into this last "tribe" Argaman included, besides the african genus *Macromeria* and the above-mentioned *Arapatka* and *Upaterka* (= *Meria* Illiger, 1807), the genera *Hahiya, Ivazuga* and *Nurmiya.* He erected the new genus *Hahiya*, having *Meria brevicauda* Morawitz, 1890 as type-species, basing it mainly on "Male trochanter of hind leg compressed dorso-ventrally, produced inwardly in sharp ridge, acute keel or semicircular lamella (Fig. 63)". The examination of a specimen at MSNG, labelled "Rym-Pesski" "F. Morawitz (leg)" "brevicauda, F. Morawitz" (autographic) and wholly corresponding to the original diagnosis: "Nigra, griseo pilosa, abdominis segmentis 2°-5° strigis albidis transversis notatis, ultimo bilobato, lobis brevis triangularibus; pronoto margine antico haud elevato angulis lateralibus rotundatis, postico non membranaceo, clypeo margine apicali leviter inciso, oculis integris, ocellis minutis", showed a normally rounded hindtrochanter. On the other hand I found that peculiar hindtrochanter in a male at MHNG labelled "Stepi M. S. D.i.T." "19" "Typus" "*Meria nigra* Rad." (autographic) "C" de Saussure" and in a male from Turkestan at BMNH, both of them bearing a well distinct keel on the pronotal foreborder; the main distinctive characters Guiglia herself gave to separate *brevicauda* and *nigra* are correct, therefore Argaman made a "determinatio incorrecta" for *Hahiya* type-species. Because of this, his attribution of the female till then undescribed, giving three characters and the figure 64 but shunning any additional information about it, turns out quite dubitative. At any rate I feel their distinctive characters valid only at specific level and because both of them share all the generic features of *Poecilotiphia* sensu Gorbatovsky 1979, *Hahiya* is here considered a junior synonym of it.

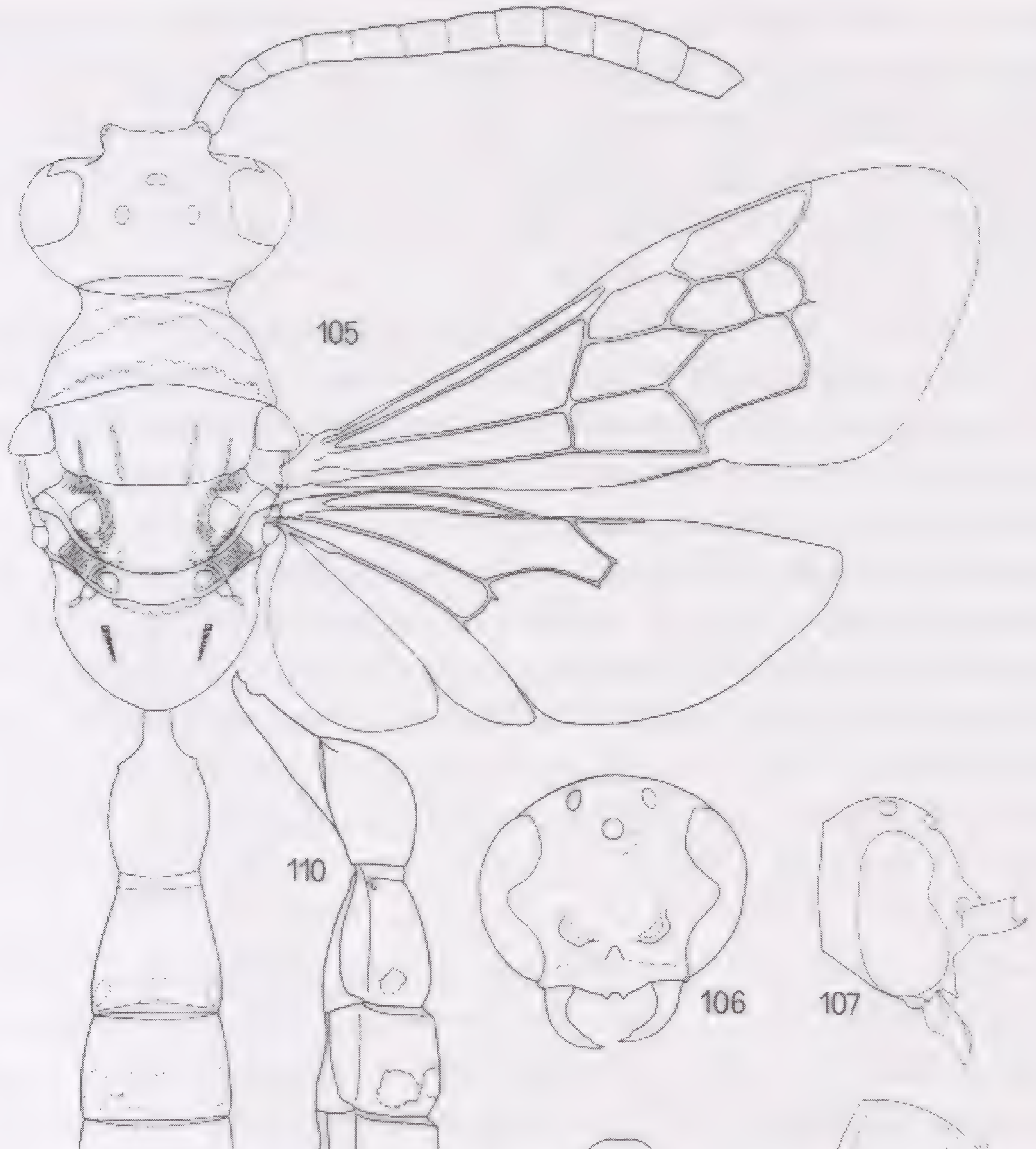

Fig. 105-113. *Myzinella maura*, sp. n., paratypus ♂. 105: habitus; 106: head in frontal aspect; 107: head in lateral aspect; 108: pronotum in lateral aspect; 109: pronotal plate; 110: metasoma in lateral aspect; 111: epipygium in dorsal aspect; 112: palps; 113: genitalia, volsella & paramere. Figs. 105-107 & 110 - Scale = 17:1. Figs. 108, 109 & 111 - Scale = 25:1. Figs. 112 & 113 - Scale 58:1.

Argaman erected other two genera, *Ivazuga* and *Nurmiya*, basing them respectively on *Dermasothes triapitzini* Gorbatovsky, 1979 and *Meria contrastata* Guiglia, 1963. His argumentations are not quite clear and do not add anything different to the original description by GORBATOVSKY (1979:619) for *triapitzini* (but the statement "Propodeum wholly costulate", while in the original description of the holotype, which is so far the unique quoted specimen, Gorbatovsky wrote "Propodeum shiny above, descending part very finely rugose") and to the descriptions (BONI BARTALUCCI 1994) of the paratype of *contrastata*; these two species also show their membership of the genus *Poecilotiphia*, Cameron, 1902 of which the new genera are here considered synonimus.

Poecilotiphia aegyptiaca (Guérin, 1837) (♂), *P. nigripes* (Guérin, 1837) (♂), *P. rousseli* (Guérin, 1838) (♀&♂), *P. gracilis* (Brullé, 1840) (♂), *P. oraniensis* (Lucas, 1849) (♂), *P. parvula* (F. Smith, 1855) (♂), *P. nigra* (Radoszkowsky, 1887) (♂), *P. rugosopunctata* (Tournier, 1889) (♂), *P. brevicauda* (F. Morawitz, 1890) (♂), *P. ciliata* (F. Morawitz, 1894) (♀&♂), *P. fasciculata* (E. Saunders, 1901) (♂), *P. lacteipennis* (E. Saunders, 1901) (♀&♂), *P. albomaculata* Cameron, 1902 (♂), *P. subpetiolata* (Cameron, 1907) (♂), *P. dakarensis* (Du Buysson, 1910) (♀), *P. mogadorensis* (Turner, 1911) (♀&♂), *P. hymalaiana* (Masi, 1933) (♀), **P. endecamera* (Menozzi, 1941) (♀), *P. guichardi* (Guiglia, 1967) (♂), *P. scorteccii* (Guiglia, 1968) (♂), **P. lugubris* (Gorbatovsky, 1979) (♀), **P. mollis* (Gorbatovsky, 1979) (♀), **P. massageta* (Gorbatovsky, 1979) (♂), **P. triapitzini* (Gorbatovsky, 1979) (♂), **P: sogdiana* (Gorbatovsky, 1979) (♂) and *P. collarinata* (BONI BARTALUCCI, 1997) (♂) are the species so far recorded from the Palearctic Region while the only two taxa Gorbatovsky ascribed to this genus from the Afrotropical Region, *P. atriceps* (Turner, 1912) (♀) and *P. stigma* (Turner, 1912) (♂), need further investigations.

Poecilotiphia aegyptiaca (Guérin, 1837)

Myzine aegyptiaca Guérin, 1837): 576, n. 7, pl. 401 f.2
Myzine aegyptiaca: Guiglia (1968 – partim)
Poecilotiphia aegyptiaca: Gorbatovsky (1981:383-384)

Neotypus: EGYPT = "Gebel Arfar, 10.10.1937" "Coll. Alfieri, Egypte", ♂. MSNG.

MATERIAL - ♂ - EGYPT = (1) "Aegyptus Cairo", MSNG; (1) "Meadi, (Cairo), 2.8.33, leg. W. Wittmer", MSNG; (1) "Nabardi, Nubian desert" "Swale collection, 1919-20" "*Meria aegyptiaca* det. M.C. Day 1974! "*Dermasothes aegyptiacus* Gorbatovsky det. 1979", BMNH; (1) "Assyut, Egypt, 9.V.1981, KMG" "*Poecilotiphia aegyptiaca* Gorbatovsky det. 1981", BMNH.

LYBIA = (6) "Miss. Zool. a Cufra, Es Sahabi, Gialo, V. 1931" (one bears an handwritten label: "Myzine sp.? vel n. sp.?, 11 ♂"), MSNG; (10) "Miss. Zool. a Cufra, Es Sahabi, VII.1931" (one bears a label "*Meria aegyptiaca*, Guér., det. D. Guiglia"), MSNG; (2) "Gialo, Ciren." "IX.1931, E. Zavattari", MSNG.

Guérin in his "Prodrome d'une monographie des Myzines" explains to have recognized some before then undescribed species on the big "planche" N. 15, published in the Savigny's work "Description de l'Egypte" under the collective name of "Myzines" with a hasty and brief explication by M.V. Audouin. At item 7 he wrote a diagnosis referred to the fig. 2 (in the book-specimen at MZUF the corresponding figure is numbered 3) of the planche 401, both of them unfortunately not worthy for a valid identification by themself: "*M. aegyptiaca*, Guér., (Myzine, Aud., Eg., pl. 15, fig. 27); reproduite dans notre atlas, pl. 401, fig.2. Tête noire, tachée de jaune. Prothorax jaune; mesothrax ayant quatre taches entre les ailes, l'écusson, une ligne en arrière et les flancs jaunes; ailes transparentes, incolores; pattes jaunes, tachées de noir; abdomen noir a large bandes jaunes. Longuer, 10 millimètres. D'Egypte".

GUIGLIA (1964) was the last author, as far as we know, to see the type: "L'esemplare contrassegnato con dubbio come tipo ("Type?"), porta il cartellino di località: "Muséum Paris – Nubie. – Botta 4180-34" e cartellino di determinazione (autografo?): "Myzine aegyptiaca Guérin" senza la dicitura "type"..."; she did not give a personal description. At different times she studied a lot of specimens she determined *aegyptiaca*, giving new accounts and descriptions (1959, 1960, 1963, 1964), all of them unfortunately not quite reliable as mostly based on chromatic features. In general way the specimens she determined as *aegyptiaca* belong to three different taxa and can not constitue a reliable source. The description of 1960 refers to a specimen belonging to another species (i.e. *Poecilotiphia collarinata* BONI BARTALUCCI, 1997), the photos (1965) and description (1964) refer to specimens actually different from *aegyptiaca*, belonging to an yet undescribed species (probably *P. oasicola* sp. n.). The examination of the type would have unravelled the tangle but the type preserved at MNHP has been lost (personal communication by M.rs Janine Casewitz-Weleursse), while there exists a specimen bearing a printed light-blue label "Museum Paris – Abyssinie – Coll. G. Sichel 1867", another small one hand written "Abyss" and a bigger one hand-written "Myzine aegyptiaca Guér.", probably original. It stands to reason that the labels have been shuffled, as that specimen cannot be judged belonging to a possible typical series; actually it belongs to another taxon (= *P. oasicola* sp. n.). To make more intricate this tangle recently ARGAMAN (1994) ascribed *aegyptiaca* to a new genus, *Fongiba*, and at the same time described a new genus and new species, *Jurja limpida*, on specimens with "a second pair of epipygial spines" and a thick anal hook. The Savigny's "planche" N. 15, fig. 27, here reproduced at fig. 114, is hence the unique source of certainty. Its examination lets no more doubt about the real identity of *Myzine aegyptiaca* Guérin, 1837, characterized mainly by the peculiar epipygium and the stout anal hook. We can conclude at once that *Fongiba aegyptiaca* of Argaman does not correspond to the true Guérin's taxon (It appears similar to the specimen at MHNP, but there are no accurate directions about it but the fig. 32) and we could also conclude on the identity of *Jurja limpida* with the Guérin's taxon, but some differences between the holotype and paratypes of the former and its inaccessibility force to suspend any relative decision.

However because of this really uncertain and confused situation followed to the loss of the type at MHNP I feel useful and even indispensable the designation of a neotype basing it on a specimen from Egypt, the typical locality, preserved at MSNG and so labelled: "Gebel Arfar, 10.10.37" (autographic), "Coll. Alfieri, Egypte" (printed), "*Myzine aegyptiaca* Guérin, det. Dott. D. Guiglia". I'm giving below its description.

MALE. Neotype. Figs. 115-125. Measurements (mm) – Body: 12.1; forewing: 7.6

Black, ferrugineous brown, pale yellow and ferrugineous. Pale yellow: mandibles, clypeus, most of the SAL and scape, the whole pronotum (but a rectangular area at the posteroventral corner, five spots, on the mesonotum (a big one at the centre, two very small close to its posterior angles and two median at the sides, scutellum, most of the postscutellum, a very big spot on the mesopleurae, and tibiae, the tarsi, most of all the terga, the half sterna. Ferrugineous brown: the remainder of the legs, the basic colour of the first five metameres. Bright ferrugineous: the flagellum.

Head. Broad oral fossa and relatively high genal bridge: the ratio $H_{OF}/H_{GB} = 1.1$, the ratio $W_{OF}/H_{OF} = 2.1$. Palps hispidous on their whole surface. Weakly impressed depressions at the base of the last four flagellomeres. Flattened foresurface of the scape.

Mesosoma. Pronotum clearly converging forward, viewed from above, and abruptly declining forward in lateral view; pronotal disk with a moderate and regular keel along its whole foreborder; anteroventral corner rounded; propleurae lightly convex. Dorsal surface of the propodeum flattened with its horizontal portion almost vanishing medially; W_p2.3 times H_p from above.

Metasoma. Metameres clearly constricted; 1st tergum subtriangular both from above and in lateral view; width of the 2nd tergum 2.5 times its median height from above; flattened base bristles at the tergal posterior corners and along the apex of 2nd to 6th sterna.

White hair on the whole body. Regular and well impressed pits (interspace mostly at least as long as their diameter) on the head, fore half of the terga and

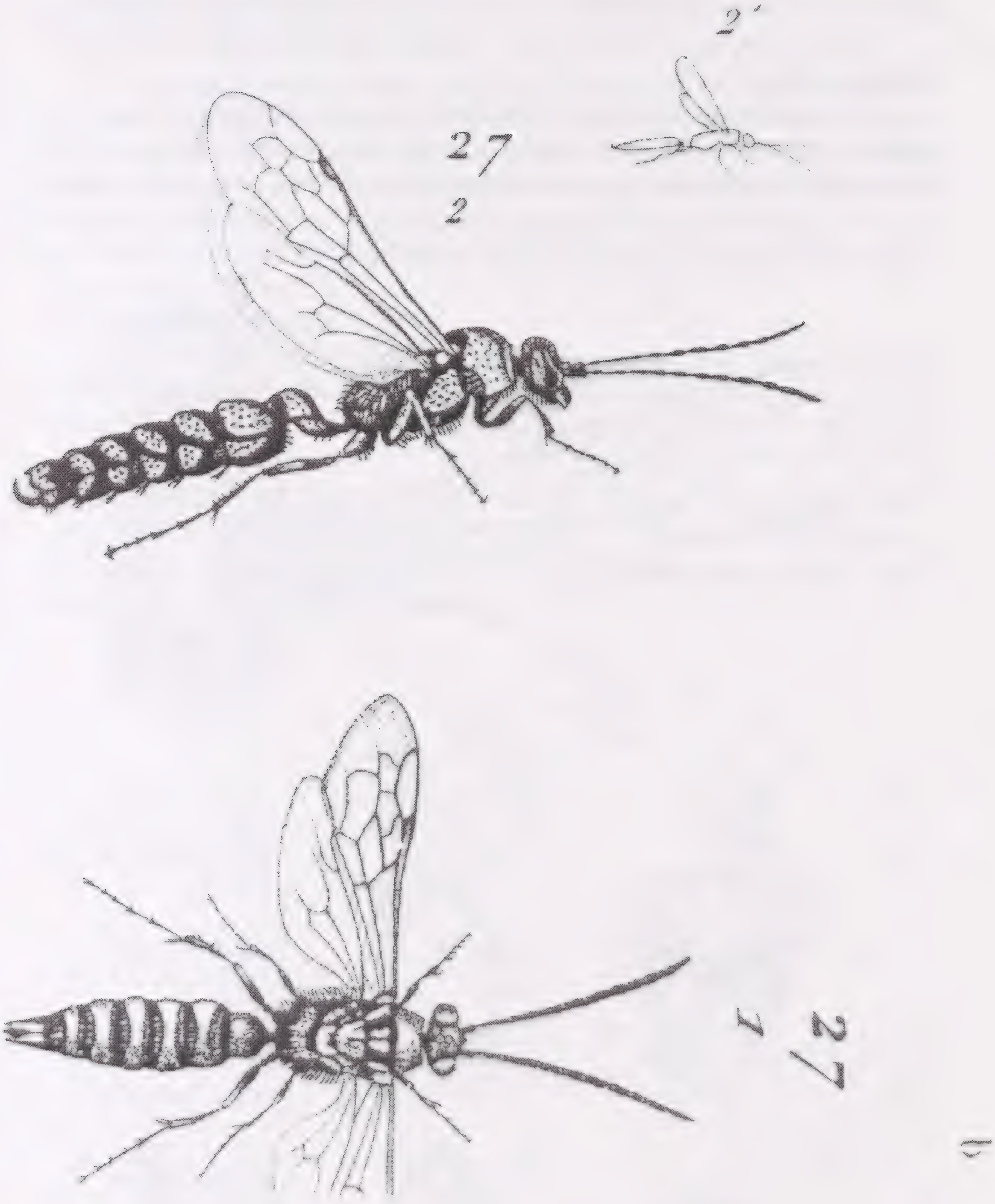

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Fig. 114. Reproduction of the fig. 27 on the Savigny's planche N. 15.

the mesosoma but the propodeum, where the pits are smaller and very dense.

The following peculiarities of the neotype could be judged convincing autapomorphies:

- a strongly transversal head with abruptly tightening genae toward the occipital foramen; SAL fused without notch, almost perpendicular to the plane of the occipital carina, at their base a deep, bilobate, big cavity; relati-

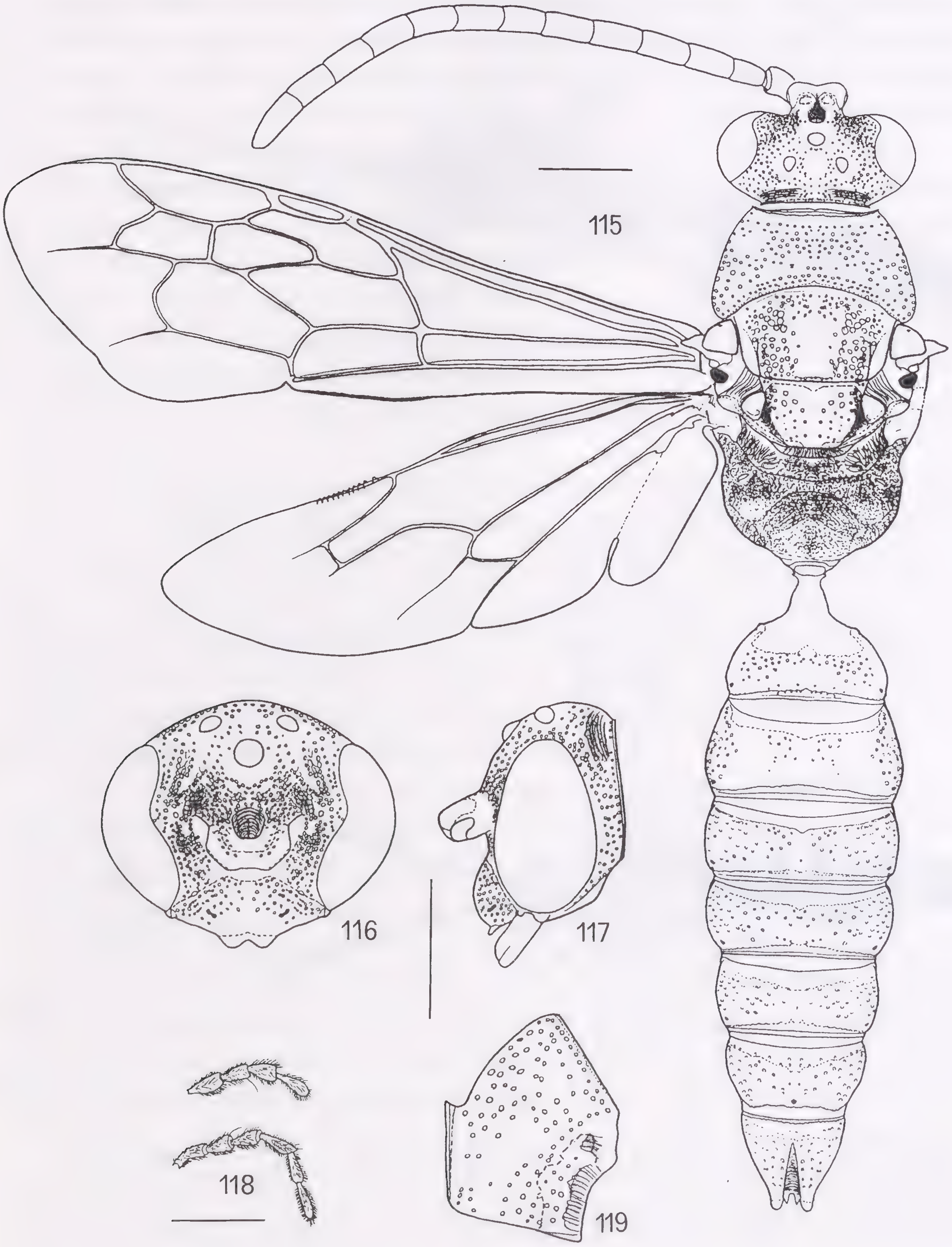

Fig. 115-119. *Poecilotiphia aegyptiaca*, neotypus ♂; 115: habitus in dorsal aspect; 116: head in frontal aspect; 117: head in lateral aspect; 118: palps; 119: pronotum in lateral aspect.
Fig. 115 - Scalebar = 1 mm. Figs. 116, 117 & 119 - Scalebar = 1 mm. Fig. 118 - Scalebar = 0.5 mm.

vely large ocelli, with the ratio Head Width/Median Ocellum Width (W_{he}/W_{MO}) less than 10;

- a transversal wrinkled depression on the foreborder of the postscutellum;
- last tergum very peculiarly shaped: its lateral laminal borders, subvertically oriented, are converging upward to meet each other, instead of wearing in joining directly with the upper pygidial lobes, so between them there is a lenghtwise impression without an open notch; the anal hook shorter and stouter than in other species, but typical of the genus *Poecilotiphia* as the genitalia are too.

FEMALE. Unknown.

VARIABILITY. All the quoted specimens show an high degree of stability about the characters above described; the variations mostly refer to the size (from 8 to 12.5 mm) and tone of the yellow colour.

ECOLOGY. Unknown.

NOTE. Apart the scutal impression and the shape of the epipygium these specimens share all the other generic features of the genus *Poecilotiphia*; I feel there is no sufficient grounds to place it in a new genus, at least till its female will be described with certainty.

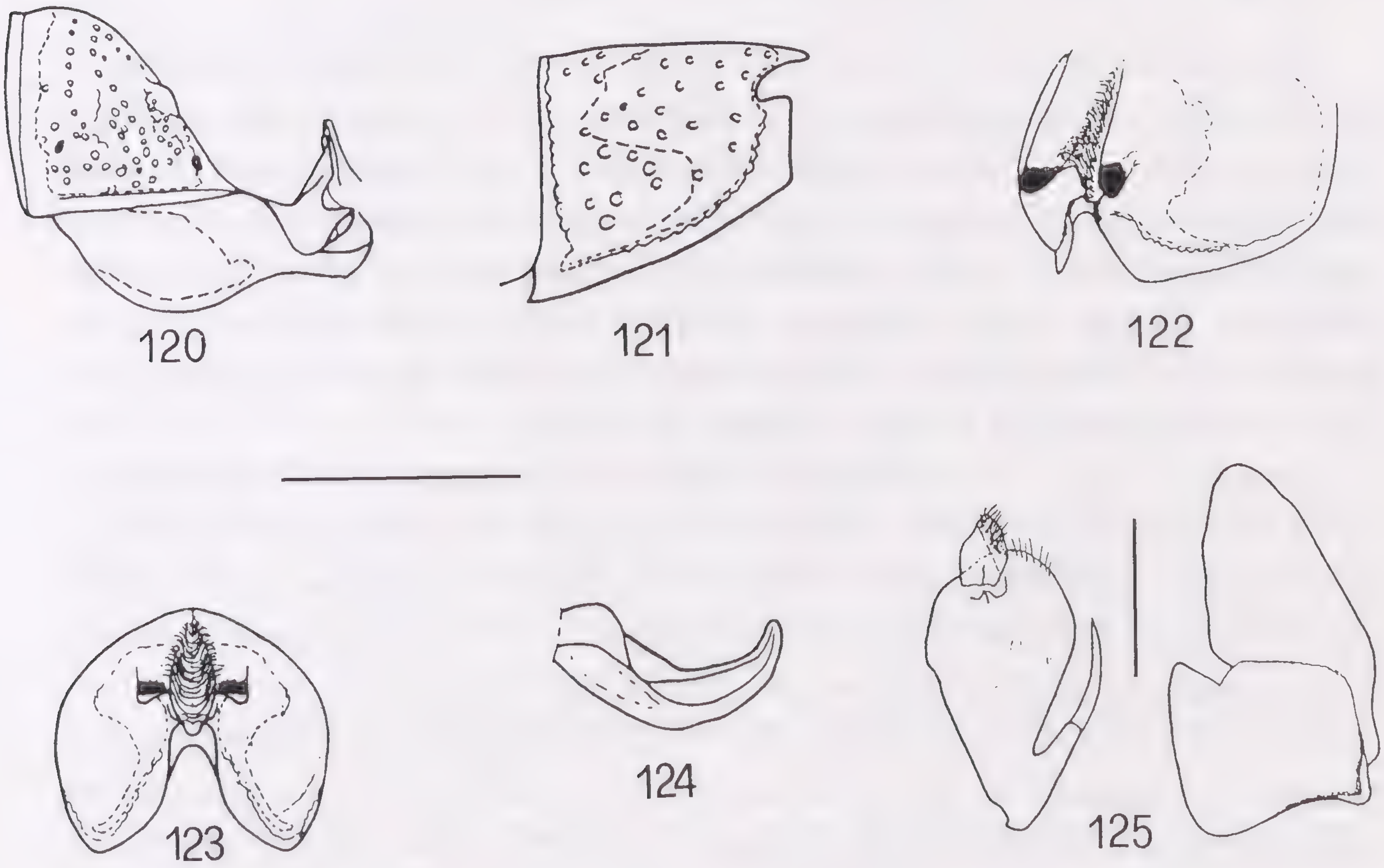

Fig. 120-125. *Poecilotiphia aegyptiaca*, neotypus ♂; 120: metasoma, 1st segment in lateral aspect; 121: epipygium in lateral aspect; 122: epipygium in 3/4 back aspect; 123: epipygium in back aspect; 124: anal hook; 125: volsella & paramere.
Fig. 124 - Scalebar = 1 mm. Fig. 125 - Scalebar = 0.5 mm.

Poecilotiphia nigripes (Guérin, 1837)

Myzine nigripes Guérin, 1837:577, n. 13 (Holotypus, ♂, MNHP)
Myzine nigripes Guiglia, (1959, 1960, 1962, 1964; ♂)

Material. – ♀ –
LYBIA = (1) "Lybia. Tripolitania, Homs, VII.1913, Andreini leg.", MSNG; (1) "Desert Gabes 20.7.43" Lybia, O.W. Richards, coll. B.M. 1967 – 510" "Poecilotiphia nigripes, Gorbatovsky det", BMNH.
TUNISIA = (1) "Zarzis (Tunisie) le 23.7.63", CH; (1) "Tunisia, isola di Djerba, 1-6/V/1976, leg. E. Moltoni", CP.
– ♂ –
EGYPT = (1) "Ikingi, Mariout(?), 23.7.(19)37" "Coll. Alfieri, Egypte" "Anastase Alfieri collection, 1965" "Myzine audouini Guér. (det. Alfieri)" "Meria nigripes Guér, ?, sp. affinis", MSNG; (3) "Egypt, North Coast, 64 km W Marsa, Matruh, 29/May/1993, coll. A. Mochi", CH.
ISRAEL = (2) "Palestine, 12 km E Beersheba, leg Bytinky-Salz, 20/IV/1946", MSNG; (1) "Ibidem, 28/IV/1946" "*nigripes* Guér. ? subsp.", MSNG; (1) "Israel, Wadi Shallab, 28.3.1962, leg. Bytinsky-Salz", MSNG.
LYBIA = (1) "Cyrenaica, R.U. Agragio, Agedabia, 20.V.?, Geo C. Krüger" "*nigripes* Guér., det. Dott. D. Guiglia", MSNG; (1) "Sirtica occ., U. Mimun, 26.VIII.(19)38, Geo C. Krüger" "*nigripes* Guér, det. Dott. D. Guiglia", MSNG; (1) "Libia occ., Museo Libico, Gadames, 4.IX.(19)38, leg. Geo Krüger", (2) MSNG; "Tripolitania, Mizda, 9-24/V/1963", MSNG.
TUNISIA = (1) "Tunisi" "coll. Gribodo", MSNG.

This species has been so far known only for the male, fairly common in NE Africa and Israel. It belongs to the same group of *mogadorensis* and *dakarensis* in having longitudinal impressions on the last flagellomeres, a stout body and great size. The females here quoted are undescribed before now and their conspecificity is highlt probable, due to their great size, the strong pigmentation similar to the females ascribed to the other two taxa, (BONI BARTALUCCI, 1994) and the same provenance area. The following description and drawings are based on the specimen at MSNG.

FEMALE. Figs. 126-130. Measurements (mm) – Body: 10.9; forewing: 6.0.

The head and mesosoma are brown-black, the whole metasoma is bright ferrugineous; mandibles, fore border of the clypeus, antennae, SAL, metasternal lobes and legs are light brown. This specimen bears (exceptionally for *Poecilotiphia*) two lateral yellow spots on 2nd and 3rd terga.

Genal bridge - of the oral fossa; MP 5-, LP 4- segmented; a narrow row of pits on the vertex and on the foreborder of the pronotal disk, which has a shining, pitless belt across where it slopes down the collar; denser pits on its upper forecorner and laterally; propodeum mostly pitted.

VARIABILITY. Apart the size and the small yellow spots lacking in the other specimens, there are no detectable differences among them.

NOTE. The specimen from Zarzis is 15 mm long.

The clearest autapomorphies seem to be the palpal formula and the relative small size of the 3rd labial palpomere, the shape of the clypeus and the sinuated row of points at the base of the 1st tergum.

Poecilotiphia dakarensis (Du Buysson, 1910)

Pseudomeria dakarensis Buysson (Du), 1910:230 (♀, Holotypus, MHNP,!)
Pseudomeria dakarensis: Boni Bartalucci (1994: 9-11, ♀ only)

Material – ♀ –
GAMBIA = (1) "Outside Abuko Nature Reserve at Waterworks. At light 19-22. 26/II/1977. Loc. No. 6. Utm 28 pck214812" "Lund Univ. Syst. Dept. Sweden-Gambia/Senegal, Feb. March 1977, Cederholm-Danielsson-Larsson-Norling-Samuelsson", LUZM.
MALI = (1) "Cerde Nara, Mourdian, 14°28'N-7°28'W, XII/(19)86, J.Q. Rondey", BMNH:
SUDAN = (1) "Dojagà, 11/VI/(19)31", BMNH
– ♂ –
MALI = (5) "N-Mali, 350m Tilemsi, 20/X-2/XI(19)81, G. Popov" "*Poecilotiphia dakarensis* (Buysson), Gorbatovsky det. 1988", BMNH

The attribution of the here (Figs. 131-140) described male to *dakarensis* has been made in label by Gorbatovsky; no definitive proof so far exists about that; theoretically the male here named *sahelica* could be considered the male of *dakarensis* too. At any rate among equivalent choices it is far better to hold the older one.

MALE. Measurements (mm). Body: 15

Black and yellow. Yellow: mandibles, but the brown tips; SAL tips; a broad clypeal spot; the whole genae; four spots on the vertex; spots on the postgena and occiput; the whole pronotal disk except a small median spot anteriorly and two spots on the posteroventral corners; tegulae; the scutum and postscutellum; a large spot on the mesopleurae; a large spot on the lower lateral area of the propodeum; the legs; all the terga, but a thin fore strip; a large band on the sterna; a spot on the outer surface of the parameres.

Head. Genal bridge small, 1/5 of the oral fossa.

Mesosoma. Foreborder of the pronotal disk without keel, only a little swollen above; propodeum with horizontally and declivitous areas clearly recognizable; the latter almost perpendicular to the main axis of body; hairless foresurface of the median femura.

Metasoma. Narrow longitudinal furrows on the 1st to 5th terga, vestigial on the 6th.

NOTE. The clearest autapomorphies seem the disposition of the longitudinal impression on the flagellum, the pronotal shape with a rounded anteroventral corner, the size of the metameres (width of the 3rd metamere 3.20 times its median height), the shape of the epipygium and genitalia.

The female from Mali is over 14 mm long.

The figure 141 shows the last flagellomeres of the male of *P. mogadoren-*

sis (Turner, 1911).

Poecilotiphia oasicola sp. n.

Fongiba aegyptiaca: Argaman, 1994:93

Holotypus: ♂, EGYPT = "Egypt, Fayid, 10/VI/1948, D.B. Baker", MSNG.
Paratypi – (♂) –
EGYPT = (4) "Egypt, Fayid, 10/VI/1948, D.B. Baker", MSNG; (1) "Egypt, Sinai, Wadi Gharrandal (30 km NW Abu Zenima), Coll. A. Mochi, CH; (1) "Egypt, Sinai, 10 km N. El Tur, 13.V.1992, D. Luchetti leg.", CH.
ERYTHREA = (2) "Assab, 1907" "Africa or., Katona", MSNG.
ETHIOPIA = (1) "Muséum Paris, Abyssinie, coll. J. Sichel 1867" "Abyss" "Myzine aegyptiaca", MNHP
ISRAEL = (1) "Israel, Arava, 4 km W of Hazeva, leg. R. Leys, 3.V.1989", (1) Ibidem "(17.V.1989", ZMA.
LYBIA = (3) "Miss. Zool. a Cufra, Es Sahabi, Gialo V.193", MSNG.
SENEGAL = (1) "Sénégal, Mbour Saik (?), 7.14-04-81, B. Signalt leg.", MHNP
SUDAN = (1) "Ile de Abba, Nil blanc, Soudan", MSNG.
YEMEN = (3) "Yemen, Al Kowd, 27.X-15.XI.1992, A. van Harten, mal. trap", (2) "Yemen, Al Kowd, 1/15.I.1993, A van Harten, mal. trap", (3) "Yemen, Al Kowd, 1/14.II.1993, A. van Harten, mal. trap", (14) "Yemen, Al Kowd, 15/28.II.1993, A. van Harten, mal. trap", (4) "Yemen, Al Kowd, IV, 1993, A. van Harten, mal. trap": ZMA.

MALE. Holotype. Figs. 142-150. Measurements – Body: 9.4 mm; forewing: 5.6 mm.

Black, brown, light brown, yellow and ferrugineous. Yellow: mandibles, clypeus, most of the SAL and scapes, pronotum but two large spots from their posteroventral corner toward the middle of the disk, a large spot on the mesonotum, most of the scutellum and postscutellum, a spot on the mesopleurae, mesosternal lobes, tips of the femura, most of the tibiae, tarsi, a band with regular foreprofile on the 2nd to 5th terga, covering most of the segment, a band with irregular foreprofile on the 1st and 6th terga, most of the epipygium, two small lateral spots on the 2nd to 6th sterna. Brown: coxae and the metasoma.

Light brown: the remainder of the legs. Ferrugineous: the flagellum.

Head. Genal bridge relatively short: the ratio $H_{OF}/H_{GB} = 2.2$, the ratio $W_{OF}/H_{OF} = 1.4$. A simple cavity, less big and deep than in *aegyptiaca*, at the SAL base. Weak but clear wrinkles parallel to the eye border ont the temple. Palpomeres smooth, only with bristles on their apical borders. Foresurface of the scape flattened. Weakly impressed depressions at the base of the last three flagellomeres. Lateral occiput swollen, protruding after the occipital carina in upper and lateral views.

Mesosoma. Regular and subhorizontal keel on the pronotal foreborder. Dorsal

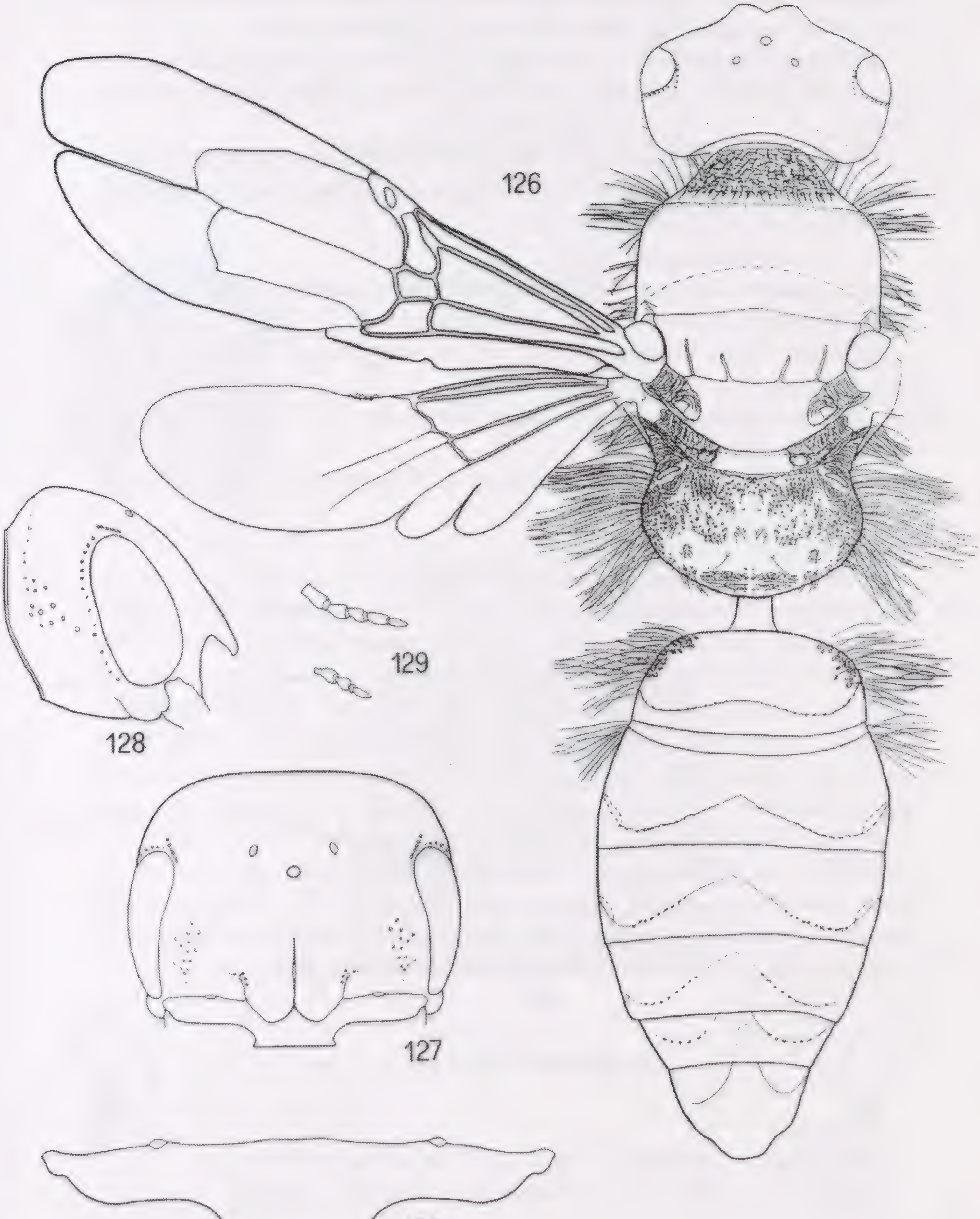

Fig. 126-130. *Poecilotiphia nigripes*, ♀. 126: habitus in dorsal aspect; 127: head in frontal aspect; 128: head in lateral aspect; 129: palps; 130: clypeus in frontal aspect.
Fig. 126 - Scale = 15:1. Figs. 127 & 128 - Scale = 20:1. Figs. 129 & 130 - Scale = 38.5:1.

propodeal surface strongly impressed, with a clear concavity bordered by a low ridge. Propleurae quite prominent transversal, with rounded tops.

Metasoma. Metomeres constricted, in lateral view too. Flattened base bristles at the posterotergal corners and along the apical border of the 2nd to 6th sterna.

Weak and scattered pits on the vertex, pronotum and terga; deeper pits on the mesonotum and scutellum. Propodeum irregularly and roughly sculpturated. White hair on the whole body.

Its clear autapomorphies are:

- the concave profile of the temples from above and the delicate wrinkles, made by lines of approached very small pits, on them;
- the SAL fused without notch and with a cavity at their base
- the protruding lateral occiput
- the transparent pronotal keel almost horizontal
- the prominent propleurae
- the forward convex apical border of the 2nd to 5th terga.

FEMALE. Unknown

ECOLOGY. Unknown

VARIABILITY. There is a quite difference in size into the same population (from 8 to 12 mm). In the holotype and african specimens the 1st metasomal tergum is somewhat flattened, its dorsal surface having a subrectilinear foreprofile from above, while in the israelian and yemenite specimens that profile is more rounded and convex. In some specimens the yellow colour is extended to the ventral surface of the mesosoma. The specimens from Yemen have a larger pronotal keel and most of them a largely reduced yellow patterns on the pronotum.

DERIVATIO NOMINIS. From the areas of capture.

NOTE. All its characters corresponds to the generic characters of the genus *Poecilotiphia*, sensu Gorbatovsky (1979 and 1981). Its identity with *Fongiba aegyptiaca* Argaman, 1994 is very likely, deduced by the fig. 32 given by him to support the extremely brief description at N. 56.

Poecilotiphia excavata n. sp.

Material

Holotypus. ♂ – ISRAEL = "Jericho, 1900, Schmiedekn", NHMW

Paratypi. ♂ – ISRAEL = (2) "Jericho, 1900, Schmiedekn", NHMW

MALE. Holotype. Figs. 151-157. Measurements. Body: 11.9 mm; forewing: 7.5 mm

Black, brown and creamy-white.

Creamy white: a reniform transversal spot on the middle of the clypeus,

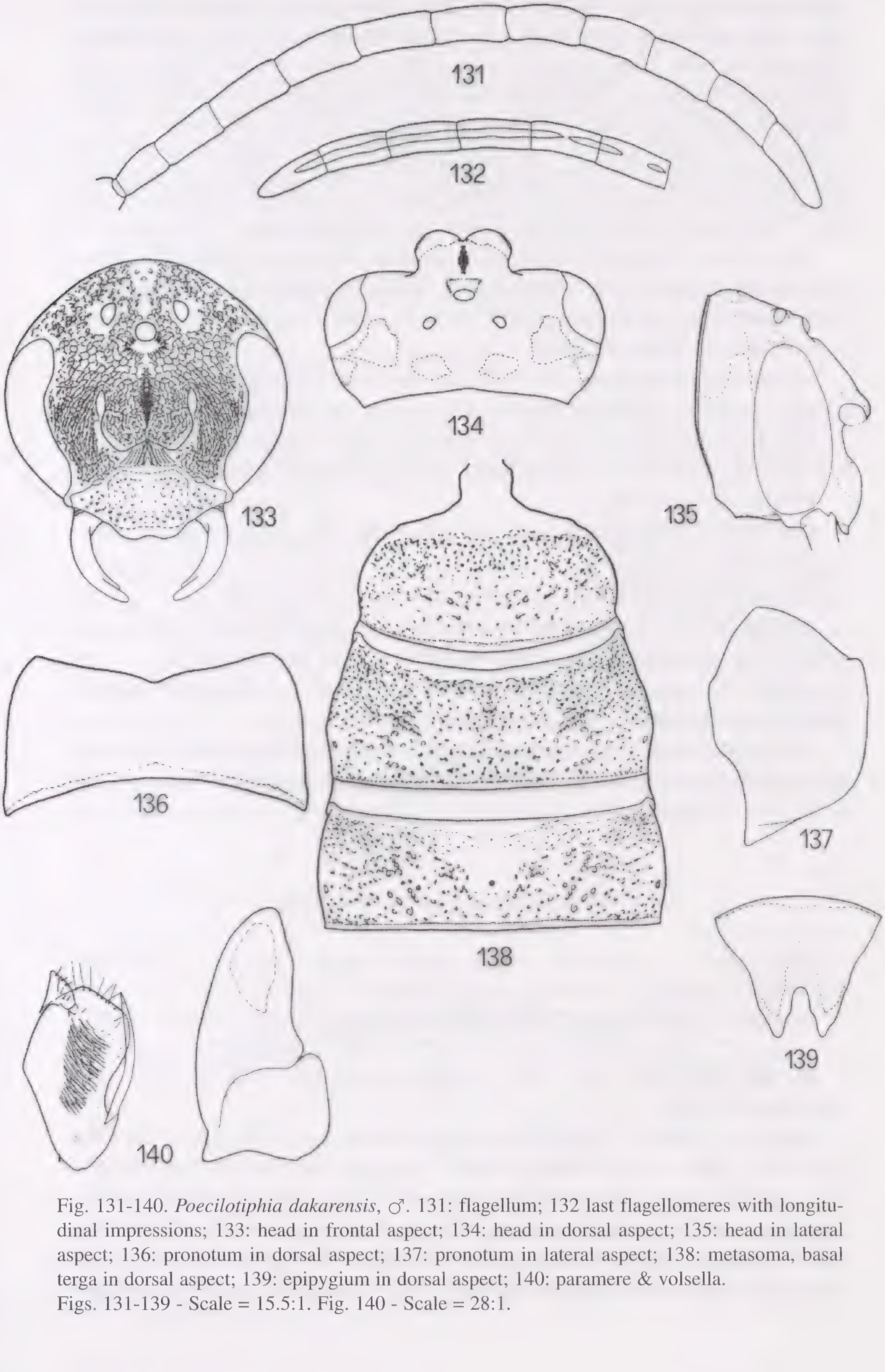

Fig. 131-140. *Poecilotiphia dakarensis*, ♂. 131: flagellum; 132 last flagellomeres with longitudinal impressions; 133: head in frontal aspect; 134: head in dorsal aspect; 135: head in lateral aspect; 136: pronotum in dorsal aspect; 137: pronotum in lateral aspect; 138: metasoma, basal terga in dorsal aspect; 139: epipygium in dorsal aspect; 140: paramere & volsella.
Figs. 131-139 - Scale = 15.5:1. Fig. 140 - Scale = 28:1.

the basal half of the mandibles, two lateral spots along the pronotal keel, a small spot on the postscutellum and on the tegular base, tips of the femura, foresurface of the tibiae, tarsi, three spot on the apical border of the 1st to 6th terga and (smaller) on the sterna, two small lateral spots on the 7th tergum. Brown: flagella, trochanters and the remainder of femura and tibiae.

Head. 1.1. times higher than wide; broad temples, almost as wide as the eye. Ratio $H_{OF}/H_{GB} = 2.1$, ratio $W_{OF}/H_{OF} = 1.2$. Scattered pits on the vertex. Clear, basal impressions on the four last flagellomeres.

Mesosoma. Foreborder of the pronotal disk without keel and with a receding anteroventral corner in lateral view; weak wrinkles on the metapleurae; dorsal propodeal surface posteriorly flattened, with rounded angles and a thin horizontal area. Wings hyaline.

Metasoma. Epipygium with triangular notch and its lobes with acute tips. Weakly flattened bristles on the tergal sides and sternal apical borders.

Regular punctuation on the whole body without rough sculpture. White hair throughout the body neither dense nor covering the underlying sculpture.

FEMALE. Unknown

DISTRIBUTION AREA. The typical locality only.

ECOLOGY. Unknown.

DERIVATIO NOMINIS. From the shape of the pronotum.

VARIABILITY. In the smaller paratype (11 mm) the light patterns are reduced, the clypeus and the pronotum being almost entirely black.

NOTE. This taxon is well distinct from other *Poecilotiphia* by the following autapomorphies, best illustrated by the figures:

the median wide excavation on the foreborder of the pronotal disk, whitout keel; the peculiar shape of the cuspis and the strong sabre-shaped bristles at the base of the volsella.

Poecilothipia sahelica n. sp.

Holotypus. ♂ – MALI = "Mali, 30 kms. South of Ansongo, K. Guichard" "*Poecilotiphia pseudofasciculata* (Guigl.), Gorbatovsky det. 87", BMNH.

Paratypus. ♂ – SENEGAL = "Senegal, Ferlo, Fété-olé, 12.II.77, G. Couturier leg.", MHNP.

MALE. Holotype. Figs. 158-164. Measurements – Body: 12.7 mm; forewing: 8.0 mm.

Black and yellow. Yellow: mandibles, clypeus, tip of the SAL, two large transversal spots on the foreborder and one posterior band on the pronotal disk, a median spot on the mesonotum, most of the scutellum and postscutellum, a spot on the mesopleurae, tips of the mesosternal lobes, the anterior surface of median – and hind-coxae, apical femura, tibiae and tarsi, a regularly foreprofiled band on the apical half of 2nd to 6th terga, one with a sinuous profile on the 1st tergum, most of epipygium, thinner apical bands on 2nd to 6th sterna. Ratio $H_{OF}/H_{GB} = 2$; ratio $W_{OF}/H_{OF} = 1.4$. Lenghtwise impression crossing throughout the last four flagellomeres, splitted in 9th. Regular, subvertical keel on the pronotal foreborder. Propleurae weakly convex. Metapleurae lightly wrinkled. Dorsal propodeal surface gently flattened with rounded angles; horizontal area expressed but hardly delimited. Feebly flattened bristles on the tergal sides and apical borders of the sterna. Its most distinctive characters are:

- a smooth surface on the temples along the occipital carina
- a smooth lightly raised area around and under MO
- the transversal slit (the colpus of Argaman) at about the middle of 3rd to 6th sterna
- the peculiar cuspis of the volsella.

FEMALE. Unknown.

VARIABILITY. The paratype from Senegal shows a broader extension of the yellow colour on the pronotal disk and the metasoma and a weaker keel on the pronotal disk. It lacks flagella.

ECOLOGY. Unknown.

DERIVATIO NOMINIS. From the area of provenance.

NOTE. The new species belongs to the group of *Poecilotiphia* males (*nigripes, dakarensis* and *mogadorensis*) sharing long flagella with longitudinal impression on the flagellomeres, and well sized females strongly pigmented, with black head and mesosoma and red metasoma. The most convincing autapomorphies are the slits on the sterna and the disposition of the flagellar impressions. Its volsella is very similar to that of *mogadorensis*; it is heavily distinct from the latter, besides the autapomorphies described, because a different shape of the head, the presence of an evident keel on the pronotal foreborder and a different relative size of the metasomal segments.

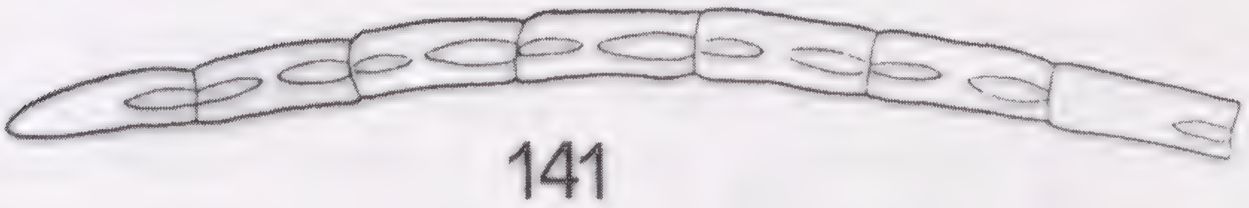

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Fig. 141. *Poecilotiphia mogadorensis*, ♂. Last flagellomeres with longitudinal impressions. (drawn by a specimen at MSNG, labelled “Maroc, Tiznit, Sidi Moussa, 3/V/1947, J. De Beaumont” “*mogadorensis* Turner, det. Dott. D. Guiglia”, MSNG).
Fig. 141 - Scale = 14:1.

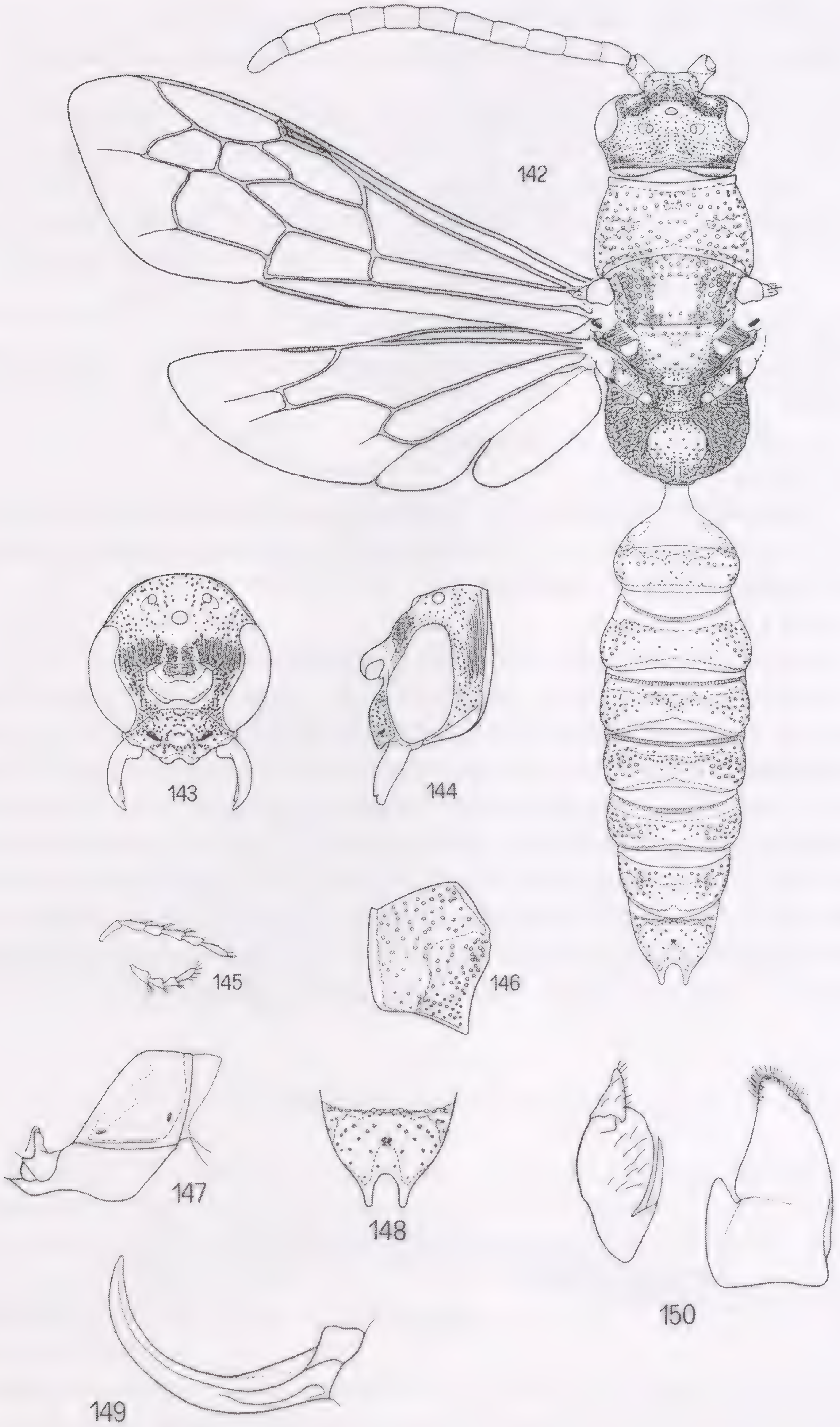

Fig. 142-150. *Poecilotiphia oasicola*, sp. n., ♂. 142: habitus; 143: head in frontal aspect; 144: head in lateral aspect; 145: palps; 146: pronotum in lateral aspect; 147: metasoma; 1^{st} segment in lateral aspect; 148: epipygium in dorsal aspect; 149: anal hook; 150: paramere & volsella.
Fig. 142 - Scale = 11.5:1. Figs. 143, 144 & 146 - Scale = 14:1. Figs. 145, 149 & 150 - Scale = 34:1. Fig. 145 - Scale 28:1. Figs. 147 & 148 - Scale 17:1.

Genus Milluta André, 1898

Milluta André, 1898:143 (species typus: *Milluta chobauti*; ♂; MHNP,!)
Magrettina Ashmead, 1901:144 (species typus: *Meria nocturna* Morawitzi; 1888; ♂; ZIN)

GORBATOVSKY (1977) first described the supposed female of *Milluta nocturna* (F. Morawitz, 1890) giving the relative diagnosis for the genus.

Milluta mateui (Suarez, 1974)

Iswara mateui Suarez, 1974:126-128 (Holotypus: ♂ – Tchad, Madrid?)

Material – ♀ – TCHAD = (1) "Tchad, Sahara Ennedi, Oued Erdi, 22/VIII/1958, J. Mateu", MZL.

- ♂ – TCHAD = (1) "Oumadjer, Tchad, 10.XI.58, Mateu", MZL.

FEMALE. Figs. 165-171. Measurements: body: 8 mm; forewing: 4.8 mm

Body entirely light brown, with yellowish shadings on the mesosoma and metasoma, eyes black.

Head. 1.45 times wider than high (from the vertex to the base of the clypeus) in frontal view. Ocelli well developed. Eyes small, their height 0.38 times head height. MP and LP three-segmented. Clypeus with a weak median lamella. Genae very large, 2.65 times eyes width. SAL well separated. Flagellum lenght 7/10 of head width, its segments rounded in transversal section. Deep pits, bearing long white bristles, on the vertex, temples and above the eyes. Genal bridge as long ad the oral fossa, the latter with semiparallel lateral borders.

Mesosoma – Pronotal disk about twice wider than high. Notauli expressed by a group of pits. Propodeum narrow, as wide as 7/10 of pronotal width; its dorsal surface completely smooth and shiny, with scarce weak pits only near the propodeal spiracle and sides. Long white bristles on the pronotal and propodeal sides and mesopleurae. Pterostigma of the forewing brown and transparent without fenestra; its distance from the tegula 1/3 of the whole wing length. Bristles on its half foreborder exceeding twice pterostigma height. Long appressed hair limited to the distal undersurface of the forewing. Foretarsomers isometric (i.e. have the same length); their shape almost simmetrical in frontal view. Cleaner apparatus of the basal foretarsomere absent. Foretibial spur lacking an evident tooth. Mediantarsomeres isometric too. Upper profile of median femur, median and hindtipia straight. Hindfemura profile subrectangular. Hindtibial spurs spoonshaped, the tallest exceeding basal hindtarsomere length. Last hindtarsomere lenght 1/3 of penultimate, its claws with a distinct tooth.

Metasoma – Narrow longitudinal furrow dividing the dorsal surface from the lateral lobes present on 1st to 4th terga. The boundaries of points on 1st to 5th terga subtending prominent areas are centrally subparallel to the distal borders of the segments and abruptly bent forward well before the lateral margin. Sternal boundaries not bent forward before the margins with less prominent subtended areas. Petiole compressed beneath, with a longitudinal carina. 1st sternum heavily compressed, its surface forming a right angle with ventral petiolar surface in lateral view. The convex epipygium and 7th sternum with well expressed longitudinal wrinkles.

DISTRIBUTION – Tchad, Sahara Ennedi

ECOLOGY – No disposable data.

NOTE. In order to semplify the discussion about, I compare below the features of this female with the female refereed by Gorbatovsky (1977) to *Milluta nocturna* (F. Morawitz, 1888); the specimens he quoted have been unaccessible.

mateui	*nocturna*
1) Ocelli present. Eyes with more than 100 ommatids.	1) Ocelli absent. Eyes with less than 10 ommatids.
2) H_{He} 2.5 times H_E.	2) H_{He} 9.2 times H_E.
3) Genal bridge as long as oral fossa. than oral fossa.	3) Genal bridge much shorter than oral fossa.
4) Flagellum 7/10 head width. Scape lenght as long as 2nd, 3rd and 4th gellomeres.	4) Flagellum 8/10 head width. flagellomeres.3rd, 4th and 5th flaflagellomeres.
5) White bristles and hair.	5) Light yellow bristles and hair.
6) Mandibles without a prominent median transparent projection.	6) Mandibles with a prominent median transparent projection.
7) Propodeum width 7/10 pronotal width.	7) Propodeum width 6/10 pronotal width.
9) Wings fit for flying, with enclosed cells. Forewings with reduced pterostigma and long bristles only on the basal third foreborder.	9) Wings unfit for flying, without enclosed cells and no nervations. Long bristles along their whole borders.
10) Foretibial spur tall and slender, without tooth, 1.8 times longer than 1st tarsomere	10) Foretibial spur slender, shorther than 1st tarsomere.
11) Mediantibia spurs present.	11) Mediantibia spurs absent (?).
12) Hindtibial spurs spoonshaped, the tallest exceeding 1.5 times basal hindtarsomere length.	12) Hindtibial spurs spoonshaped too, the tallest exceeding 1.6 times the basal hindtarsomere length.

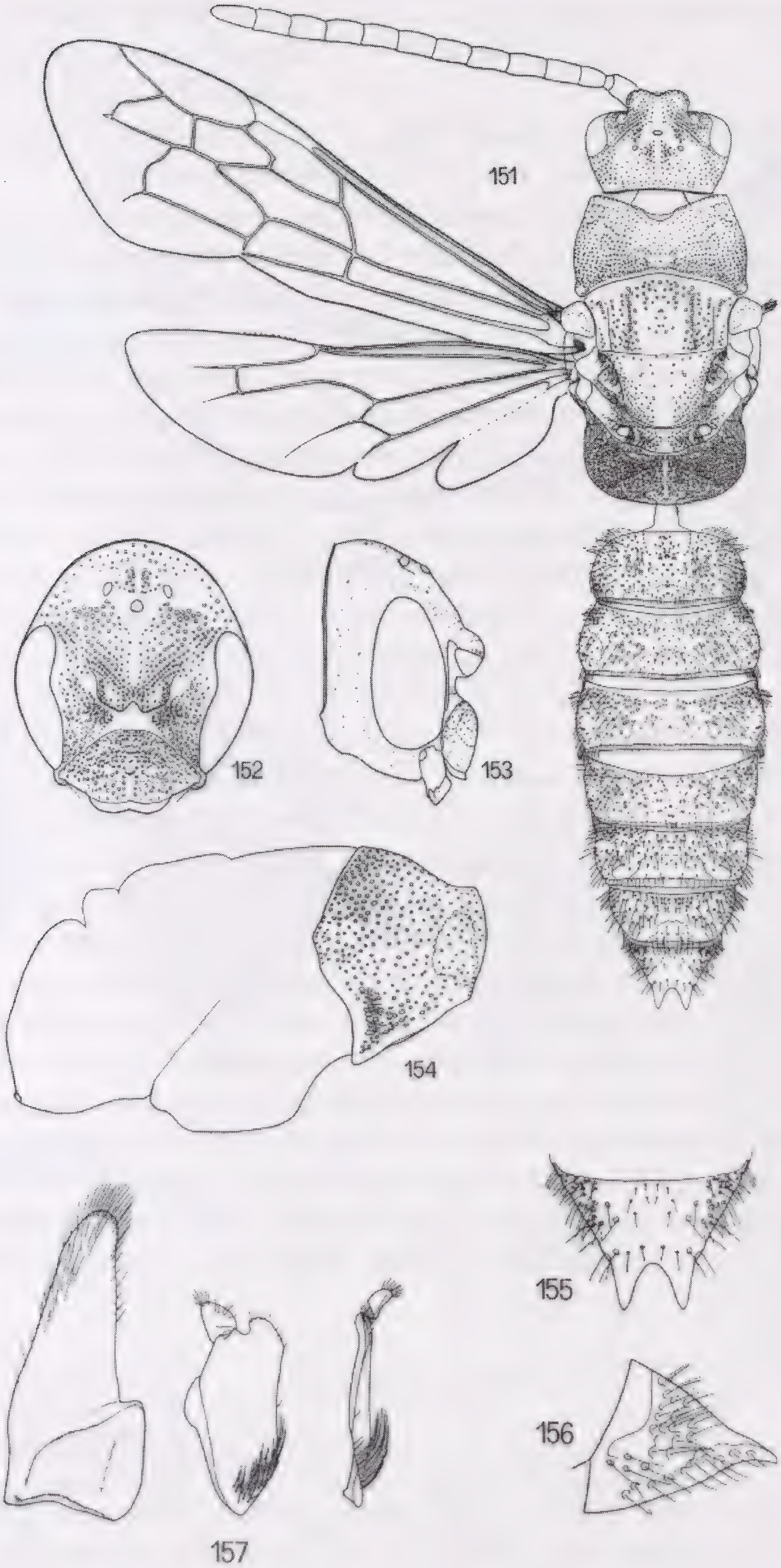

Fig. 151-157. *Poecilotiphia excavata*, sp. n., ♂. 151: habitus in dorsal aspect; 152: head in frontal aspect; 153: head in lateral aspect; 154: pronotum in lateral aspect; 155: epipygium in dorsal aspect; 156: epipygium in lateral aspect; 157: paramere & volsella.
Fig. 151 - Scale = 9:1. Figs. 152-154 - Scale = 14.5:1. Fig. 157 - Scale = 32:1. Figs. 155 & 156 - Scale 17.5:1.

13) Last hindtarsomere length 1/3 penultimate.	13) Last hindtarsomere length 1/4 penultimate (from the figure, in front of a statement of 1/6).
14) 6th tergum (epipygium) convex whith strong longitudinal wrinkles.	14) 6th tergum with small and short wrinkles.

The attribution of this specimen to the *Milluta mateui* is somewhat problematic if we are referring to the Gorbatovsky's generic diagnosis because of the many differences; but the locality, data and collector's name, Mr. Mateu himself, makes it highly probable and credible. We have four choices in front of us: 1) to consider the present specimen to be conspecific with *mateui* and congeneric with *Milluta nocturna* and therefore to change the generic features stated by Gorbatovsky; 2) to consider it conspecific with *M. mateui* but not congeneric with *M. nocturna*, so restoring the already sunken division between *Milluta* André, 1898 (Species typus *Milluta chobauti* André, 1898) and *Magrettina* Ashmead, 1901 (Species typus *Meria nocturna* F. Morawitz, 1888); 3) to consider it a new species and therefore to erect a new genus, because of its peculiar characters not shared with other genera; 4) to rejoin all the nocturnal palearctic species under the oldest genus *Iswara* Westwood, 1851, because the characters their separation among the genera *Iswara, Milluta* and *Melaniswara* has been based on are not settled; this was the TURNER's opinion (1909) too, followed by KROMBEIN (1937) and by Suarez himself.

The 2nd hypothesis could be supported by the relative differences, not rilevated by Gorbatovsky in its generic diagnosis about the males, between the pairs *chobauti/mateui* and *nocturna/pallida* (the other asiatic species): the presence in the formers of a median prominent transparent lamella on the clypeal foreborder, of a hindtarsomere only 1.2 times longer than penultimate, instead of 2-2.5, of a 3rd SMC higher than wide, of a marginal cell as long as the pterostigma, instead of wider than high and distinctly longer respectively. Though I feel much more natural the 4th choice, I suspend any revision awaiting a relative deeper study and following in the meantime the 1st one; it has to point out the transience of the generalizations based on too many few taxa and specimens. The 3rd choice appears to be the most remote and really unacceptable.

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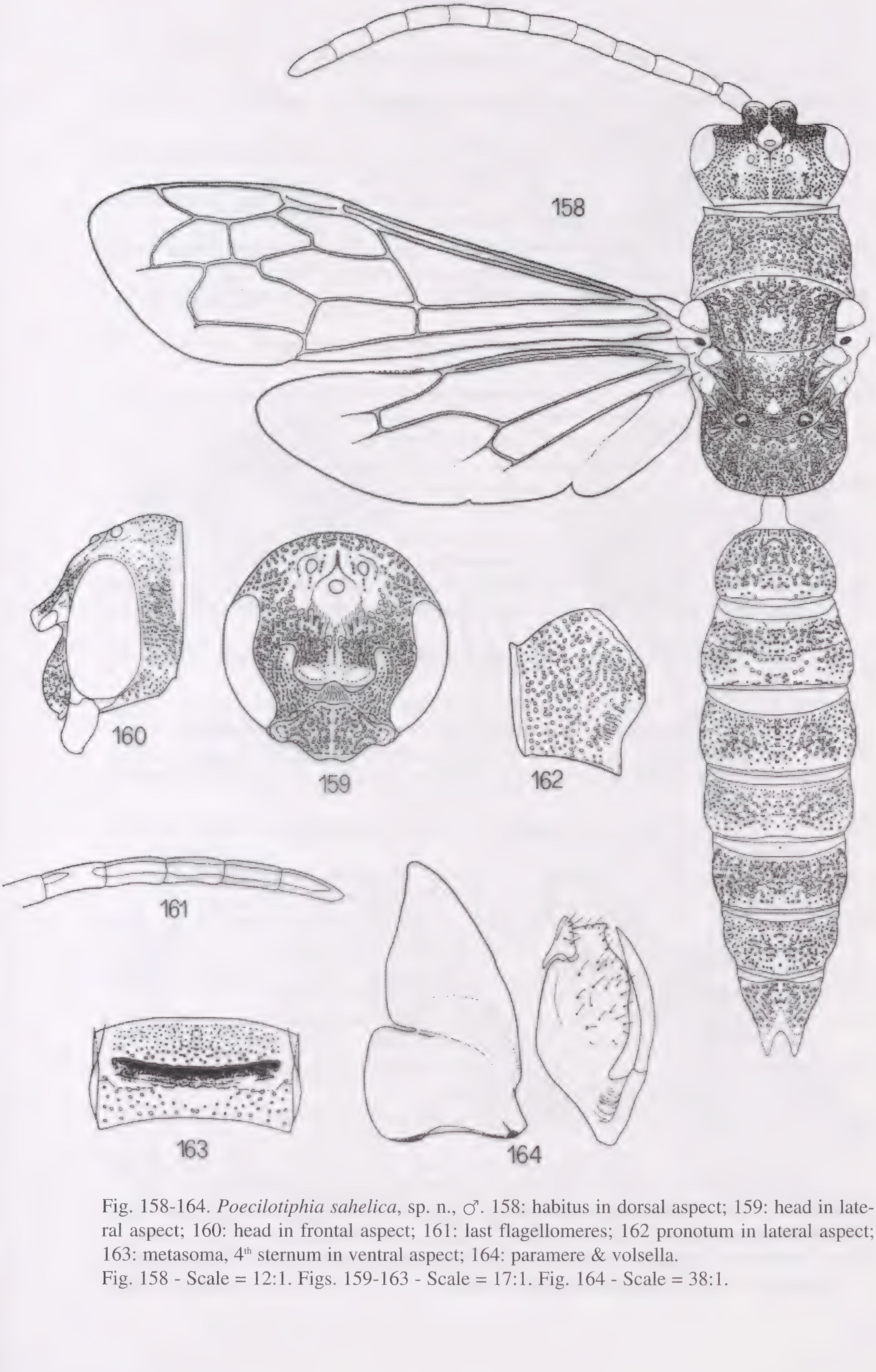

Fig. 158-164. *Poecilotiphia sahelica*, sp. n., ♂. 158: habitus in dorsal aspect; 159: head in lateral aspect; 160: head in frontal aspect; 161: last flagellomeres; 162 pronotum in lateral aspect; 163: metasoma, 4th sternum in ventral aspect; 164: paramere & volsella.
Fig. 158 - Scale = 12:1. Figs. 159-163 - Scale = 17:1. Fig. 164 - Scale = 38:1.

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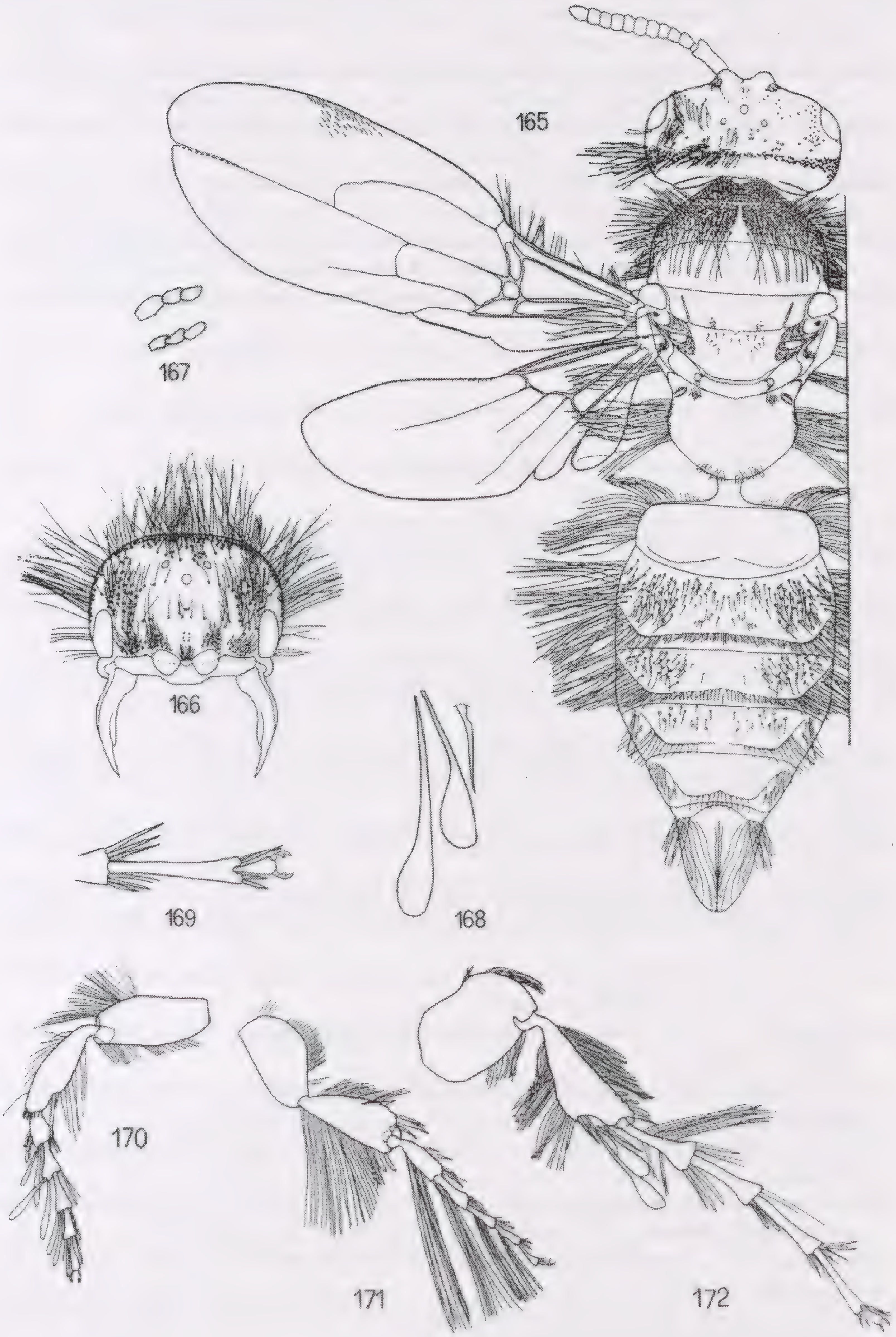

Fig. 165-172. *Milluta mateui*, ♀. 165: habitus in dorsal aspect; 166: head in frontal aspect; 167: palps; 168: the pair of the hindleg spurs and on the right the foreleg spur; 169: last hindtarsomeres; 170: foreleg in frontal aspect; 171: medial leg in frontal aspect; 172: hindleg in back aspect. Figs. 165, 166 - Scale = 12.5:1. Fig. 167 - Scale = 67.5:1. Figs. 168 & 169 - Scale = 25:1. Figs. 170-172 - Scale = 14:1.

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Sommario

Vengono descritte cinque nuove specie: *Meria sabae, Myzinella maura, Poecilotiphia oasicola, Poecilotiphia excavata* e *Poecilotiphia sahalica*. Sono stabilite le sinonimie specifiche di *Meria soikai* Guiglia, 1966 con *Meria aurantiaca* (Guérin, 1837) e di *Yooloa vircola* Argaman, 1994 con *Myzine albohirta* Turner, 1920 (= *Parameria femorata* Guérin, 1837), quelle generiche di *Arapatka, Upaterka, Fukpotka* e *Tilkuyia* Argaman, 1994 con *Meria* Illiger, 1807 e nuovamente confermate quelle di *Tachus* Jurine, 1807 e *Meriana* Rafinesque, 1815 con lo stesso genere; di *Illoswia* Argaman, 1994 con *Myzinella* Guiglia, 1959; di *Yooloa* Argaman, 1994 con *Parameria* Guérin, 1837; di *Fongiba, Juria, Hahiya, Ivazuga* e *Nurmiya* Argaman, 1994 con *Poecilotiphia* Cameron, 1902 e nuovamente confermata quella di *Myzina* Rafinesque, 1815. Vengono designati i Lectotypi di *Mesa heterogamia* Saussure, 1892 e di *Plesia mandalensis* Magretti, 1892. Viene altresì designato il neotypus di *Myzine aegyptiaca* Guérin, 1837. Sono descritti per la prima volta la femmina di *Poecilotiphia nigripes* (Guérin, 1837), i maschi di *Meria thoracica* Guérin, 1839 di *Meria sanguinicollis* Morawitz, 1893 e *Poecilotiphia dakarensis* (Buysson, 1910) e la femmina di *Milluta mateui* (Suarez, 1974). Vengono forniti inoltre disegni e descrizioni dei Lectotypi di *Meria geniculata* (Brullé, 1832), di *Meria aurantiaca* (Guérin,1837) e di *Meria arabica* (Guérin, 1837).

Summary

Five new species, *Meria sabae, Myzinella maura, Poecilotiphia oasicola, Poecilotiphia excavata* and *Poecilotiphia sahalica* are described. Sono stabilite The specific synonymyes of *Meria soikai* Guiglia, 1966 with *Meria aurantiaca* (Guérin, 1837), of *Yooloa vircola* Argaman, 1994 with *Myzine albohirta* Turner, 1920 (= *Parameria femorata* Guérin, 1837), are proposed. The generic synonymies of *Arapatka, Upaterka, Fukpotka* & *Tilkuyia* Argaman, 1994 with *Meria* Illiger, 1807; of *Illoswia* Argaman, 1994 with *Myzinella* Guiglia, 1959; of *Yooloa* Argaman, 1994 with *Parameria* Guérin, 1837; of *Fongiba, Juria, Hahiya, Ivazuga* & *Nurmiya* Argaman, 1994 with *Poecilotiphia* Cameron, 1902 are also stated. The synonymies of *Tachus* Jurine, 1807 & *Meriana* Rafinesque, 1815 with *Meria* Illiger, 1807 and of *Myzina* Rafinesque, 1815 with *Poecilotiphia* Cameron, 1902 are newly confirmed. The Lectotypes of *Mesa heterogamia* Saussure, 1892, *Plesia mandalensis* Magretti, 1892 and the Neotype of *Myzine aegyptiaca* Guérin, 1837 are also designed. The females of *Poecilotiphia nigripes* (Guérin, 1837), and *Milluta mateui* (Suarex, 1974), the males of *Meria thoracica* Guérin, 1839, *Meria sanguinicollis*

Morawitz, 1893 and *Poecilotiphia dakarensis* (Buysson, 1910) are described for the first time. Drawings and description of the Lectotypes of *Meria geniculata* (Brullé, 1832), *Meria aurantiaca* (Guérin,1837) and *Meria arabica* (Guérin, 1837) are given.